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Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi, Egyptian, Syrian Foreign Ministers Meet

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

JN0911182190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 9 Nov (SANA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'. Also receiving him were Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister and director of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Shaykh Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, Saudi ambassador to Syria; Foreign Ministry officials; and Saudi Embassy staff.

In a statement to SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, he said that during his visit he would meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid as part of coordination and consultations among the three countries in order to assess the current situation in the Gulf area and the Arab arena and to preserve Arab interests.

Talks Begin

JN0911200090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal held the first session of their tripartite talks at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister; and the Saudi and Egyptian ambassadors in Damascus attended the session.

Al-Asad Receives Ministers

JN1011120090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 today Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, in the presence of Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affair; Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs; and the ambassadors of Egypt and Saudi Arabia in Damascus.

The foreign ministers briefed his excellency the president on the outcome of their talks on developments in the region and on current international contacts with regard to the Gulf crisis.

Talks End

JN1011190090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—Faruq al-Shar', Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal respectively—concluded their talks on the Gulf crisis in a meeting this afternoon attended also by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr. Usama al-Baz, director of the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs; Isma'il Shura, under secretary at the Saudi Foreign Ministry for political affairs; and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

In the meeting, the foreign ministers finalized talks they had started yesterday on the Gulf crisis and the international and Arab activities taking place regarding this crisis.

They reviewed the Arab situation from all aspects. They agreed to continue cooperation and coordination among the three countries. The three ministers decided to hold their coming meeting in Cairo.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Syria after concluding their talks this evening.

Seeing them off were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Nasir Qaddur.

Agree on Gulf Strategy

JN1011205790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Dispatch by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo carried on the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian foreign minister, accompanied by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser for political affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening after having met in Damascus with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers. The discussions during this meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Gulf crisis in light of the recent tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

It has been learned from authoritative Egyptian sources that the three ministers reached agreement during their meeting on several important issues. These issues are:

1. To continue the tripartite coordination among Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, and to call on the United States and the other international forces not to make any international decision to declare war in the Gulf without first giving the three countries sufficient notice of this decision. The available information indicates that Syria believes in the need for the Arab forces to act independently in performing their role and tasks in the region, and that coordination with the United States and other international forces should be confined to the minimum possible, while Egypt believes there should be controls if

military operations break out in the region. Such controls should cover protecting Iraqi civilians and not destroying their production capabilities.

2. Syria agrees to the Saudi security measures on which agreement was reached with the U.S. secretary of state to protect Saudi territory and institutions in the event war breaks out in the Gulf.

3. Syria and Saudi Arabia agree to the efforts Egypt intends to carry out to settle the Gulf crisis in a peaceful manner, efforts consisting of contacting the five UN Security Council permanent members to postpone the military option for another three months.

4. Egypt and Saudi Arabia agree to Syria's taking all the necessary security precautions along its borders and the impact these precautions will have on suspending the dispatch of further Syrian troops to Saudi Arabia. Egypt will assume, however, the responsibility of dispatching more of its forces to Saudi Arabia for this purpose.

5. The three countries will continue their consultations and their foreign ministers will meet in Cairo following the tour U.S. President George Bush intends to make to the region.

It has also been learned that President al-Asad will visit Cairo in the next few days for talks with President Mubarak on current developments.

GCC States Urge More Japanese Effort in Crisis

JN1211202490 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov 12 (GNA)—Member states in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have urged Japan to exert more efforts along with other world countries to implement resolutions of the UN Security Council, which call for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restore its legitimate government led by H.H the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The remarks were made during a joint meeting held in Tokyo today between representatives of the GCC states and the Japanese foreign minister Taro Nakayama.

The meeting reviewed the Gulf crisis and prospects of implementing the UN Security Council resolutions.

The GCC representatives, who attended the enthronement of Emperor Akihito of Japan today, met today to coordinate stances on the crisis and discussed Japan's role towards the current Gulf crisis.

GCC's Bishara Proposes 'Force' To Oust Saddam

LD1211161190 London KUNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Dhahran, 12 Nov (KUNA)—'Abdullah Bishara, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, affirmed today that Kuwait will celebrate its coming national day [25 February] in Kuwait itself. He rejected, however, any diplomatic solution in the Gulf, stressing the importance of using force to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Morocco's King Hassan Proposes Arab Gulf Summit

Reactions to Proposal

LD1211143490 Rabat MAP in English 1315 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Nov 12 (MAP)—Several capitals have already responded to the proposal made Sunday by King Hassan II calling for holding an 'exceptional and decisive' Arab summit to give the last chance to a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis on the basis of international resolutions.

Among the first responses to the sovereign's call were Baghdad's pre-requisites to participate in the summit, France considering through its Foreign Minister Roland Dumas that the sovereign's proposal is worth examining, while Jordan, Palestine, and Mauritania voiced consent for participation in the summit, and former Secretary General of the Arab League Chedli Klibi believing the call to be a unique opportunity to avoid war in the Gulf.

The Iraqi Revolution Command Council, the highest political body in Iraq, and the regional leadership of the ruling Ba'th Party which held a meeting under the chairmanship of President Saddam Husayn, listed in a joint statement the conditions for Iraq's participation in the proposed summit.

Baghdad exacts 'serious preliminary concertations between the various parties involved in the Gulf crisis, and namely Iraq. It also exacts that 'the summit not be held under the threat of foreign forces' deployed in Saudi Arabia and that the venue of the summit and 'the general conditions wherein President Saddam might participate in this gathering' be examined.

The joint statement pointed out further that a summit 'should not deal with the Gulf crisis only, but also with the Palestinian problem, the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and other Arab issues'.

In Amman, a spokesman for the Jordanian Government said, '...we surely welcome the holding of an Arab summit'. He added that even if the Iraqi stand was a bit intransigent, what matters is to see how the Gulf countries will respond to Morocco's call.

A Palestinian official source said Sunday evening in Tunis that Palestine 'approves' the Moroccan sovereign's proposal and is sure that 'the Arab nation is able to overcome this crisis'. The source recalled that Palestine had affirmed since the beginning of the crisis that 'an Arab solution is the only possible means to reach a comprehensive settlement guaranteeing the rights and interests of all and maintaining Arab unity and the region's stability'.

Mauritanian information minister, currently on a visit to Jordan, said Mauritania welcomes the proposal made by King Hassan II to contain the crisis.

In Paris, Roland Dumas said the royal proposal 'must be considered' for Morocco has 'a key role' to play and in view of the fact that it 'has relations with the two blocs'.

'In an Arab world so deeply divided, it is difficult to contemplate a useful Arab summit. However the country that can do this is precisely Morocco', Dumas said adding. 'Morocco is involved in the Gulf crisis. It has troops on the spot... it plays a key role on the international scene'.

The Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, currently on a visit to Baghdad, said this Monday at a news conference that China 'backs the holding of an Arab summit to resolve the Gulf crisis'.

He said this crisis is 'an Arab issue that must be settled by Arab leaders'.

President of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat who was attending this news conference confirmed that Palestine backs the royal proposal.

League Secretary Hails Call

NC1211185190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 12 Nov (MENA)—As'ad al-As'ad, the acting Arab League secretary general, who is currently in Tunis to complete the procedures for transferring the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, has welcomed the call by Morocco's King Hassan II for an extraordinary Arab summit to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis on the basis of international resolutions.

In a statement to the MENA correspondent here, al-As'ad stressed that a meeting of Arab leaders to unite the Arabs and restore Arab solidarity would be a blessed step. He said that the Arab nation is in dire need of unity in the ranks, and joint Arab action.

Mubarak Due in Syria for Talks on Summit

NC1411105090 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Nov 14 (AFP)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was due in Damascus Wednesday, official Syrian sources said, for talks with Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad that were likely to focus on Morocco's call for an Arab summit.

The source did not specify how long the Egyptian president's visit was expected to last. [passage omitted]

Arab Anti-Zionist Committee Issues Statement

JN1111162190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] The Arab Anti-Zionist Committee issued a statement following its meeting today on the anniversary of the UN General Assembly Resolution 3379, equating Zionism with racism. The statement denounces the Israeli practices aimed at annihilating our Arab people in Palestine. The statement warns against the continuation of the Zionist conspiracy aimed at canceling that resolution, and urges the Arab governments and masses to face this conspiracy and abide by the resolution of the Islamic Conference Organization's Foreign Ministry [as heard] and Syria's Arab initiative calling for confirming support for the resolution and finding an effective mechanism to implement it on the United Nations' level.

Palestinian Affairs

Salah Khalaf Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

PM1311140890 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 9 Nov 90 p 16

[Interview with PLO "number two" Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] by Dominique Lagarde in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Lagarde] The PLO has not expressed any clear and formal condemnation of Iraq following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Is it not therefore rather illogical for the PLO to invoke international law in demanding Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories?

[Abu Iyad] Our position on the Gulf crisis has still not been clearly understood. From the start, we based our stance on principles which we regard as inviolable: the condemnation of the occupation of territories by force and respect for peoples' right to self-determination. This is not the first time that I have said this. From the start of the crisis, Yasir 'Arafat and I took the initiative of visiting Iraq, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, with the aim of finding an Arab solution within an Arab framework. Unfortunately, we did not have time to do so. In this respect, the Cairo Arab summit was extremely unfortunate. Egypt's aim was not to seek an Arab solution but to provide cover for the U.S. presence and for the Egyptian presence in Saudi Arabia. Eight Arab countries, including the PLO, had a different proposal, which was not even explained. That proposal was based on the very principles outlined by President Mubarak in his opening speech; namely, Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy—in other words, of the al-Sabah family. The aim was to form a committee of five or six Arab heads of state—Jordan, Algeria, Egypt, the PLO, Yemen, and possibly Saudi Arabia—which would have been given the task of visiting Baghdad to hold talks with Saddam on the basis of these proposals, the summit remaining in session pending the return of those envoys. That suggestion was not even discussed, or put to the vote. Our position has been clear from the start: We are opposed to the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. We have not condemned Iraq because we do not want to justify and provide cover for the U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia.

[Lagarde] Do you think that at the time there was a chance of the Arabs' succeeding in persuading Saddam Husayn to leave Kuwait?

[Abu Iyad] We thought it was possible.

[Lagarde] Do you still think that there is a chance of a negotiated solution?

[Abu Iyad] I am convinced that, if there is no war this month, there will be no war until January at least.

[Lagarde] What makes you say that?

[Abu Iyad] I think that that is sufficient time to give political overtures a chance. I also think that if the military solution were the United States' preferred solution, it would already have attacked. But neither solution—military or political—is easy.

[Lagarde] Do you think that Saddam Husayn has changed and that he is prepared to show greater flexibility, as Mikhail Gorbachev recently hinted in Paris?

[Abu Iyad] On the basis of several meetings which we have recently had with Saddam Husayn, I can say that he is in favor of a political solution, but on some conditions.

[Lagarde] You say that he wants a political solution. But does he agree to a solution which would involve Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Abu Iyad] I think that the possibility exists in the context of a comprehensive compromise which takes account of the need to apply international law to all the problems in the region. But I cannot speak for Iraq. This is my personal opinion. I do not think there can be a political solution without withdrawal.

[Lagarde] In a previous interview, you said that Iraq might at least give up the idea of keeping the whole of Kuwait, and Baghdad contradicted you....

[Abu Iyad] That is why I say that this is a personal viewpoint. The Iraqis do not like to have other people speak for them.

[Lagarde] When you refer to the conditions under which you think the Iraqis might be prepared to withdraw from Kuwait, do you mean that they could only contemplate such a withdrawal if the Palestinian question is settled simultaneously? Do you make the same link?

[Abu Iyad] We think that at least a political link should be established between the two problems. We are not demanding a simultaneous withdrawal or settlement, but an international guarantee on the implementation of the other Security Council resolutions concerning the region. Was it not President Mitterrand who said: "The law is the law"? You cannot apply the law in one case and not in another. The Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions against Iraq. That is very good. But why should this international law not also be applied to us?

[Lagarde] Yasir 'Arafat is now spending a great deal of time in Iraq. The PLO has hitherto been very careful to keep its decisionmaking independent of the Arab countries. Have you not put rather too many eggs in one basket this time?

[Abu Iyad] 'Arafat is trying to prevent a military solution. If war breaks out, it will be destructive for everyone. Our approach is to prevent the destruction of this region. But this does not mean that we have become Saddam Husayn's supporters. We are Palestinians and attach as much importance to our independent decisionmaking as ever.

[Lagarde] Some people say that the PLO played a role in the release of the French hostages. Is that true?

[Abu Iyad] Not just the French. We have asked for the release of all the hostages. And history will one day show the role we have played in securing the release of women and children. I think that Iraq has chosen to release some hostages to encourage a political solution.

[Lagarde] You use the word "hostages"?

[Abu Iyad] Yes. There is no point in playing with words.

[Lagarde] To turn to the Palestinian question, what do you expect from the meeting, proposed by the UN secretary general, of the Geneva Convention signatories on the protection of civilian populations under occupation?

[Abu Iyad] We welcomed that proposal. We want this to produce something specific which can be carried out on the spot. This does not mean that we are abandoning our demand for an international force to be sent to protect our population in the occupied territories. Nobody protects the Palestinians, and people are killed every day. Just yesterday, two Palestinians were murdered because an Egyptian killed Rabbi Kahane.

[Lagarde] Do you really think that Israel would accept that?

[Abu Iyad] Let us try to apply the same logic everywhere. Pressure is being exerted on Iraq. Why not on Israel? Since the formation of the Shamir government, every peace initiative has been blocked and this is producing deep despair. I think the Western countries should force Israel to accept something. I cannot imagine the Western countries mobilizing their navies against Israel. But there are other means of exerting pressure.

Reportage on Hawatimah Visit to Bulgaria

WA1311205290

For Bulgarian reportage on the visit by Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to Bulgaria, including reports on his talks with Lyubomir Kyuchukov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, and his interview discussing the Gulf crisis and the intifadah, please see the Bulgaria section of the 13 November East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit in Maldives Postponed Two Days

BK1011163990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] The fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation—SAARC—which was to begin in the Maldivian capital Male on the 19th of this month has been deferred by two days to enable the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar to attend it. Our correspondent says the rescheduling has been done at the request of India as Mr. Chandra Shekhar is to get a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha before or on the 20th.

Algeria

Iraqi Minister Arrives With Saddam Message

JN1311203390 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1820 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers, 13 Nov (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived in Algiers this evening.

Sa'dun Hammadi is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid regarding the scale of brotherly cooperation between the two countries and the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region.

The envoy had earlier conveyed similar messages to Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Government Views Trade Bill, Religious Property

LD1311122790 Algiers APS in English
1013 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers, 13 Nov (APS)—The Council of the Government which met Monday here under the chairmanship of Mouloud Hamrouche, examined the reorganization of the trade organization and the Wakf (religious) buildings.

In the field of trade, the Council of Government examined the draft bill concerning the trade code. In this context, the new code brings important transformations in the organization and functioning of commerce in general. The aim of the bill is to harmonize the rules which can [be] applied to all companies, to organize a financial market and to enrich the commercial legislation.

Moreover, the government council examined the draft bill related to the Wakf (religious) buildings. In conformity with the Constitution, the Wakf belongings must be protected under the responsibility of institutions, associations and persons legally benefiting from these buildings.

Illegally Acquired Land To Be Returned

LD1311122290 Algiers APS in English
1016 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers, Nov 13 (APS)—The Ministry of Agriculture issued a communique in which it "reaffirms its will to carry out with the requested rigor" the operation of reorganization and healthening [as received] of the agricultural sector.

The communique reaffirms that the operation concerns the agricultural lands provided to certain categories of people. In this context, it specifies that these lands were first meant to agricultural workers and the moudjahidine (war veterans) and the legal heirs of the chouhada (martyrs) and the unemployed youth.

The communique pointed out that all those who benefited illegally from these lands have to return them in conformity with the law.

Commentary Views Parties' Responsibilities

LD1111153990 Algiers APS in English
1337 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Algiers 11 Nov (APS)—About thirty political parties have been officially created in Algeria since the advent of the new Constitution of February 1989 which allowed multipartism. This tendency is in a way natural after a quarter of century of one way thought with its advantages for the building of the country and its drawbacks for the absolute freedoms of opinion and expression.

In other places, in almost identical circumstances, the case of Spain is (?revealing)—this proportion of parties is not harmful as it enables to clarify the positions in a diversified political landscape. The forthcoming legislative elections will be a test for the political formations existing in the country.

However, everyone knows that the future of Algeria implies a certain level of responsibility in the assessement of the evolution of the country. Between a government which is attached in deepening the reforms which it considers "as the obliged passage to get the country out of the crisis" and an opposition which is attached to organizing and gathering its social basis, there can be a minimum consensus rejecting invectives but criticizing by duty and by nature any measure that seems to be contrary to the stakes of society. In other terms, the aim is to reach a constructive opposition which has become a real force of proposal to struggle together the plagues which first of all may affect the poor people and the youth. In this context, there is a necessity to create a frame of consultation likely to give a form to a conjugated work that will take in charge the important subjects concerning the daily life of the people. On two occasions, with the general unions of Algerian workers and Algerian peasants, the government opened a dialogue which has been considered by all as "fruitful and constructive".

Algeria will but benefit from these forms of dialogue thanks to the serenity which presided over the debate and thanks to efforts and why not concessions of all the sides. As, in a determining crossroad of the life of the country, the essential things should (?be) preserved around a minimum of solidarity which does not affect the claims of the parties and the program of the recovery initiated by the government. To learn to talk to each other has become a necessity in the new political landscape in sight.

In a society where solidarity is a secular value, one should transform at the political level the ancestral values and take in charge the social progress of the people.

Islamic Salvation Front Leaders Address Rally

LD1011095590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] A mass meeting, organized by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] took place today after afternoon prayers on Martyrs Square in Algiers. It was attended by thousands of people.

What is interesting about this meeting was the new language used by the FIS, threatening to reject the dialogue which has not, as the FIS asserted, led to the expected results since October 1988 and following the FIS supporters' victory in the recent municipal and regional elections.

It was on this new stance, which is preparing ground for the upcoming legislative elections, the speeches by both Ali Belhadj and Shaykh Abassi Madani [FIS leadership members] were focussed. Ali Balhadj vehemently critized the government and the reforms as well as the use of the administration, the judiciary, and the press to hinder the work of the elected municipal and regional council. Ali Belhadj also dealt with some incidents witnessed in a number of regions during the celebration marking the 1 November anniversary [date on which war against the French was declared], pointing out in particular the incident which took place in the Wilaya of Taref [clashes between elected fundamentalists and war veterans]. He described them as staged clashes meant to thwart the FIS and discredit it before public opinion.

As far as the forthcoming legislative term is concerned, Ali Belhadj pointed out that the parliament is merely a means and not an end for the FIS, which is still committed to its fundamental aim: the setting up of an Islamic state.

Shaykh Abassi Madani's speech focussed upon the circumstances in which the elected council is working, in particular the unequal relations between the central government and the elected council. Concerning what the FIS spokesman termed as obstacles, Abassi Madani referred to the law which prohibits deputation but for the mayor. [as heard] He outlined his stance on reforms being introduced to the electoral bill, asserting that such reforms are primarily aimed at weakening the FIS. As far as the legislative elections are concerned, Abassi Madani reaffirmed that the parliament is merely a means for dialogue and, as it has become useless, the FIS will only respect what he termed the people's will, namely the setting up of an Islamic state this year.

We would like to point out that, following the mass meeting, Abassi Madani held a press conference during which he set out the FIS stance toward the government and what he termed plots being hatched against it.

Egypt

Commentary on Peaceful Solution, Country's Role

NC1311212190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "Egypt's Role Enjoins It To Defend Arab Legitimacy."]

[Text] In both past and recent history some countries come forward to assume a specific role—a role defined by certain factors that give these countries a prominent standing as a result of their policies which are committed to the principles of right, justice, and legitimacy.

Among its Arab sisters, Egypt is one such country. Its role as a defender of the Arab nation and its devotion to serving its fateful causes is borne in the minds and hearts of the Arab nation. Hence, Egypt's stance on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was foreseeable to the majority of the Arab countries. This same stance, however, was viewed as illogical and unreasonable by the aggressor and those who supported him.

Those who have followed Egyptian policy since the eruption of the political aspect of the crisis, a few days before the actual Iraqi invasion of sisterly Kuwait, will realize how deeply Egypt is concerned about the welfare of the Iraqi people, Army, and entity, and about the welfare of the Arab nation which Egypt has been seeking to spare from the dangers of war. It has made sincere efforts to avert Arab bloodshed and to safeguard Arab wealth. All that Egypt has publicly urged, based on its principles and role, has been an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. Apart from this condition, everything else is negotiable. Inter-Arab differences, however intractable, will eventually disappear.

Egypt exercised patience with Iraq in order to allow the longest possible time for the attainment of a peaceful solution, always hoping that Saddam Husayn might awaken from his illusions of expansionism, hegemony, and dictatorship, and realize that these outdated concepts do not suit the spirit of the age and a new international community that has substituted detente for the cold war.

When views were aired about creating security guarantees in the region, after the Gulf crisis is resolved, so that the Kuwaiti tragedy would not be repeated, Egypt clearly stated that these guarantees will be Arab guarantees free from foreign intervention.

In light of Saddam Husayn's continued intransigence, his miscalculations such as the detention of foreign nationals as hostages and the attacking of foreign embassies, and his insistence on annexing Kuwait, the sounds of the drums of war were heard, raising fears about unknown perils besetting Iraq and the region. The world's politicians are now convinced that Iraq is determined to proceed along the path of evil and destruction.

For this reason King Hassan II of Morocco proposed holding an urgent Arab summit whose aim, first and foremost, is to save the Arab nation, and notably Iraq, from being hurled into the crater of an active volcano that will destroy everything. We imagined that the Iraqi regime would see the Moroccan king's call as an opportunity and a means to withdraw from Kuwait without losing face. The Iraqi regime, however, set impossible and illogical conditions that do not reflect the reality of the grave Gulf situation in which the specter of war hangs over Iraq.

Today President Mubarak is holding important talks with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in Surt. The talks deal with Arab and international developments as well as the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. These talks are an extension of previous talks which President Mubarak held in Cairo and in many other Arab and international capitals, as well as a prelude to forthcoming talks. All these talks focus on three points: First, Kuwait as an independent Arab country now and always; second, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government; and third, the safeguarding of Arab security and the Arab nation as an entity.

Egypt is seeking to achieve these goals on both the Arab and international levels. It is committed to trying to achieve them peacefully as long as this is possible, always maintaining that the military option will not prevail unless it becomes an unavoidable necessity.

If the Iraqi regime accuses the world of conspiring against its Army and uses the excuse of Iraq's being subjected to a possible crushing blow after it withdraws from Kuwait, then Egypt and all the other Arab countries will be Iraq's shield after it reassumes its Arab identity and casts off the mantle of aggression. What happened during the Iraq-Iran war is living proof of that. If Saddam Husayn, however, persists in playing the war game and insists that the branch [Kuwait] has returned to its origin [Iraq] and that this matter is not negotiable, then the Iraqi regime will have condemned itself to political and military oblivion. This is particularly true in light of the fact that, by his reckless policies, Saddam Husayn in the early days of the crisis transformed it from an Arab crisis into an international one. It is he who drove the entire world, East and West, to unite against him because legitimacy and interests found common ground for the first time since World War II.

How good it would be if Saddam Husayn realized these facts.

Paper Comments on Mubarak, Al-Qadhdhafi Summit

NC1411121490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 14 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Important Timing and a Necessary Summit", AL-JUMHURIYAH writes in its editorial today that President Husni Mubarak is continuing his consultations and contacts with Arab leaders and presidents to tackle Gulf crisis developments and spare the region the specter of a destructive war.

It adds: The president met with Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in the Libyan town of Surt yesterday while on a short visit. The two leaders discussed the Gulf crisis and the current initiatives to reach an Arab solution that would guarantee a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and ensure stability and entities for the peoples of the region by excluding the military option, particularly as the tone of statements about this option has become sharper nowadays.

The paper then says: It is noted that the timing of the Egyptian-Libyan summit is extremely important. It comes a few days after President Mubarak's Gulf tour and his meetings with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Oman. Positions were coordinated and strengthened, and Egypt reiterated its stand of support for legitimacy and international principles. The summit comes too following U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour of the region which aimed at defining the stands and discussing the appropriate options for confronting developments in the situation. The summit comes also some few days before President George Bush's visit to Egypt and Saudi Arabia during which the Gulf crisis will be at the top of the agenda.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that the visit comes also at a time when Baghdad is rejecting all the initiatives being made and setting impossible conditions.

Cabinet Reviews Foreign, Domestic Issues

NC1111180190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that in a Cabinet meeting today, chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, a comprehensive report on foreign policy, presented by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was discussed. The report reviewed the outcome of the positive talks that President Husni Mubarak held recently with French President Francois Mitterrand on Arab issues, the Gulf crisis, and bilateral relations. The report also dealt with the outcome of the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that the three countries share identical views on the Gulf crisis and the need for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, the return of the legitimate government, and the support for Saudi Arabia in defense of its territories against any aggression. The three foreign ministers also exchanged views on world developments and the diplomatic contacts the three countries are holding in this respect.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's report also dealt with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Egypt and his talks with President Husni Mubarak, as well as the talks held with the members of Baker's delegation on the bilateral relations between the two countries. The report also touched

on the results of the Chinese foreign minister's talks in Cairo, which were characterized as positive and realistic. In his report Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid briefed the Cabinet members on the procedures undertaken for the return of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo, in accordance with the Arab League Charter and the Arab summit resolutions. The report also reviewed the outcome of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam's visit to Egypt during which all aspects of Egyptian-Ethiopian relations were discussed.

The report also touched on the upcoming Paris Club meeting to reschedule Egypt's debts in light of the results of the talks held with the IMF. In this respect, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the United States, on the U.S. Congress' recommendation, called for an international conference in Paris on 16 November, following the Paris Club meeting, to write off Egypt's debts.

The Cabinet then discussed a comprehensive report by the interior minister on the progress made in the case of the terrorist groups that assassinated Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and that tried to infiltrate the country. The report explained the arrests made in light of the criminal activities revealed in the seized documents and the security procedures undertaken by the Interior Ministry to protect the individuals and the installations.

In his report the interior minister stressed that all security procedures are in accordance with the law and public prosecution. He pointed out that the security agencies had seized all the tools used in Dr. al-Mahjub's assassination. The interior minister noted the high morale of the security agencies' personnel and their eagerness to maintain security in Egypt. He also praised the citizens' cooperation with the security personnel and their alertness to the need to contain terrorism.

The Cabinet members underscored the important role played by the police in tracking and arresting terrorists in order to uproot terrorism, maintain the people's safety, and ensure stability in the country. The Cabinet reiterated its appreciation for the sacrifices of the martyrs and those among the police who have been wounded while confronting terrorism.

The Cabinet then reviewed a report on the course of the election process. The report noted that the candidates running for the People's Assembly seats throughout the Republic represent all political trends, including candidates from the parties that decided to contest or boycott the elections. The number of independent candidates has reached 2,168, in addition to the candidates from the parties that are going to contest the elections. They will compete in 222 constituencies with 444 members to be elected.

The Cabinet once again emphasized the need to have equal opportunities for all the candidates, to maintain impartiality throughout the election process, and to confront any attempt to tamper with the elections, based on a respect for the people's will and in accordance with the constitution and the law.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1330 GMT on 11 November cites information Minister al-Sharif on the Cabinet meeting today and adds: "The Cabinet discussed a report by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, on the economic situation. The report reviewed the talks with the IMF and the meetings that will be held in mid-November at the Paris Club to discuss Egypt's foreign debts and the Egyptian proposals to ease the burden of these debts on the economy. The report noted the U.S. initiative to invite 20 countries to meet in Paris to discuss Egypt's debts and the need to ease the burden of these debts and their principal in order to accelerate Egypt's development process in the future". MENA later adds: "The economic report noted that foreign currency deposits at the banks have reached $13 billion, showing an increase of $1.7 billon [period of comparison not identified]. The report also noted the increase in recent months in the foreign currency funds held in current accounts by Egyptians and Arabs in Egyptian banks to the tune of $5 billion, and explained the advantages that have resulted following the enactment of the law on the confidentiality of accounts and deposits held in Egyptian banks".]

Minister 'Ubayd Outlines Foreign Debt

NC1111221390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, has declared that Egypt's overall debts amount to $46.7 billion, according to the Central Bank's records before the cancellation of a part of these debts.

In a televised interview tonight, Dr. 'Ubayd said that $6.7 billion in military debts to the United States and $6.3 billion in debts to Arab countries have been written off. He emphasized that the upcoming round of negotiations with some creditor countries might result in the cancellation of about $8 billion in debts.

Dr. 'Ubayd pointed out that the overall debts guaranteed by the government amount to $41.3 billion, representing 88.5 percent of the total debts. He noted that the total loans borrowed by Egyptian commercial banks as well as short-term loans amount to $5.4 billion. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Ubayd stressed that 90 percent of the Egyptian debts belong to 12 states, in addition to Arab and international financing institutions. He added that the Cabinet Affairs Ministry has been notified of a proposal to convene an international conference on Egyptian debts next week and to hold negotiations with France, England, Spain, and Italy, and later with the other creditor countries, including Japan and Germany, in a bid to convince them to reduce their debts to Egypt.

Dr. 'Ubayd said the cancellation of debts will certainly help to establish new factories and to operate others which had been idle. [passage omitted]

78,000 Jobs Offered to Egyptians in Gulf, Libya

NC1111070790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 11 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports that 78,000 job opportunities in Arab countries have been offered to Egyptians between the time of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the end of last month. Of these, 49,000 jobs are in Saudi Arabia, 14,000 in other Gulf countries, and 15,000 in Libya. 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, minister of manpower and training, said that an agreement was reached with the Kuwaiti Government to begin dispensing the compensation payments due to Egyptian workers returning from Kuwait as soon as the one-time $50 million grant is completely distributed among returning workers.

'Captives' Freed by Iran Arrive in Cairo

NC1311182490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1747 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Nov (MENA)—A special plane of the International Committee of the Red Cross arrived in Cairo tonight from Damascus. Aboard the plane were 44 Egyptian captives who have been freed by Iran.

On board the same plane was Islamic scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, who interceded with Iranian authorities to gain the release of the captives.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak Hold Talks in Surt

LD1311155190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Surt, 13 Nov (JANA)—A meeting was held this afternoon between the brother leader of the revolution and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended the meeting.

Talks Detailed

NC1411065890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, hosted a dinner banquet last night in honor of President Husni Mubarak and his delegation following a series of intensive talks between the two leaders. These talks dealt with the Gulf crisis developments and the efforts to contain it peacefully.

[Egyptian] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the talks dealt with developments in the Arab and international arenas and the latest Gulf crisis developments. He added that the two leaders' talks also dealt with the development in bilateral relations in light of the Tobruq declaration and the steps agreed upon to coordinate in several fields. In particular, they dealt with expanding cooperation in the industrial field, especially heavy industries, in industrial integration between the two countries, and in the fields of information, transport, and communications.

Minister members of the Egyptian delegation and their Libyan counterparts discussed the priorities of projects and the scope for bilateral cooperation.

Al-Bishari, Iranian Envoy View Gulf Crisis

LD0911150990 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Tehran-Tripoli ties and international and regional issues were discussed in a meeting of Iran's ambassador to Libya Mohammad Reza Nuri-Shahrudi and Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari in Tripoli Thursday.

Nuri outlined Iran's stands regarding the Persian Gulf crisis and its opposition against any change in geography of the region.

The Libyan foreign minister also voiced his country's opposition against Iraq's annexation of Kuwait and presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region.

Al-Bishari called for promotion of mutual ties and cooperation as well as exchange of delegations.

Tajik Friendship Delegation Received

LD1311134890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1225 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Nov (JANA) The assistant secretary at the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and chairman of the Libyan Arab-Soviet Friendship Society this morning met at the People's Hall in Tripoli with a delegation of the Soviet-Libyan Arab Friendship Society led by the minister of economy and supplies in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The meeting reviewed the prospects of cooperation between the two friendship societies which work for consolidating and deepening the relations between the peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and the USSR.

The assistant sercretary affirmed the importance of the strengthening of relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the peoples of the USSR and their further consolidation particularly with the Republic of Tajikistan which is linked by ties of religion and fraternity with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

The two sides signed during their meeting an agreement for joint cooperation between the two friendship societies for the coming period.

It is recalled tht the Libyan Arab-Soviet Friendship Society is now holding a week of Libyan Arab-Soviet Friendship as a further consolidation of the permanent

relations between peoples and not between governments. The week covers lectures and popular shows, stressing that permanent relations exist between peoples and not between governments.

Morocco

Ramadan Arrives in Rabat With Saddam Message

JN1311164790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, 13 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, arrived here this afternoon.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Ramadan said he has a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dealing with the dangers confronting the Arab nation as a result of the great conspiracy represented by the presence of Atlantic land, sea, and air military troops on the land of Najd and Nejaz to carry out an aggression against the Arab nation, foremost of which would be Iraq.

Received by King Hassan

LD1411080290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] King Hassan II received yesterday in the royal palace in Rabat Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, first deputy prime minister, and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty.

The Iraqi envoy was accompanied by Mr. Sa'd Abd al-Majid al-Faysal, undersecretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Mr. Fadil 'Abd al-Ghafur al-Shahir, the Iraqi ambassador to Morocco, and the Media and Information Secretary of the Iraqi envoy, Mr. Tahir Mahdi al-Hadithi.

The audience was attended by the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr. Abdellatif Filali, and his majesty's advisor, Mr Ahmed Reda Guedira.

Comments on Meeting

JN1411082790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, 14 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member, first deputy prime minister, and President Saddam Husayn's envoy, has delivered a message from his excellency to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The message was delivered when the Moroccan king received Taha Yasin Ramadan last night in Rabat.

The first deputy prime minister conveyed the greetings of President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, and the eagerness of the Iraqi people and leadership to continue to develop relations between the two fraternal countries, Iraq and Morocco.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Rabat, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he discussed with King Hassan II his majesty's call for an Arab summit meeting and Iraq's viewpoint. He said he asserted Iraq's position on the call, and the need to provide a positive atmosphere and to make mature ideas available for discussion at the level of an Arab summit. This will guarantee that the outcome will be positive resolutions that will serve the interests of the Arab nation, contribute to its unity and solidarity, and consolidate its unity, so as to erase the infamous Cairo summit resolutions, which created divisions in the Arab stance toward the dangers and the collusion against the Arab nation created by its enemies, led by the United States and its allies.

The first deputy prime minister added: This objective can never be achieved except through more coordination among the political sides concerned with the crisis and through good preparation for an Arab summit.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that His Majesty King Hassan II told him to convey greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn and tell him that Morocco was proud of its brother, Iraq, and that it wanted to continue to cooperate and coordinate on Arab issues in order to establish Arab dignity and strength.

The first deputy prime minister added that His Majesty King Hassan II expressed Morocco's concern to see peace prevail in the Arab region. King Hassan II also confirmed the importance of pooling all efforts among brothers to adopt a unified stand toward their issues. He also said it was imperative to keep war away from the Arab region because war aims at destroying Arab capabilities and the Arabs' progress and awakening.

The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation; Ahmad Reda Guedira, adviser to the Moroccan king; and the Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

USSR's Petrovskiy Arrives for Gulf Talks

LD1311214490 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] In the framework of political consultations between Morocco and the Soviet Union on the Gulf crisis, [Deputy Foreign Minister] Vladimir Petrovskiy, President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy to his majesty King Hassan II, arrived in our country today. The Soviet envoy stressed the importance of the royal initiative calling for the convening of an emergency Arab summit, and expressed his hope that an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis would be reached.

Petrovskiy's visit is in the framework of a new Soviet initiative, which includes a number of Arab capitals. After his visit to Morocco, Petrovskiy will visit Tunisia, Libya, and Algeria. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Government To Attend Summit on Gulf

EA1411091090 Khartoum SUNA in French 0923 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum 13 Nov (SUNA)—Sudan has agreed to take part in an Arab extraordinary summit called on 11 November by King Hassan of Morocco on finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported on Tuesday, quoting Dr. ('Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Sadiq Said), the acting first undersecretary of state of the Foreign Ministry. According to the paper, Dr. (Said) had indicated that the Foreign Ministry would contact the Moroccan ambassador in Khartoum in order to inform him officially that Sudan agreed that the summit be held.

Dr. (Said) also stated that Sudan (?had received an invitation) [words indistinct] its agreement was based on [words indistinct] Arab (?peaceful settlement) of the Gulf crisis, in order to avoid [words indistinct] threat of war.

Dr. (Said) went on to say that contacts were being made with the heads [as received] in Khartoum with a view to [word indistinct] their countries' opinions on the holding of the extraordinary summit. He stressed it was now more pressing than ever to reach a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, referring to Syria [words indistinct] which have preferred a peaceful settlement of the crisis [words indistinct] European countries. Dr. Said [word indistinct] the success of the summit, stressing that Sudan would do everything it could to ensure its success.

RCC Member Said Suffering Nervous Breakdown

EA1211173890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] News emanating from Khartoum says that Major Ibrahim Shams al-Din, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, has been affected by a serious nervous breakdown, leading to insanity, which has necessitated his transportation on a special plane to Germany for treatment. Medical reports indicate that Maj. Ibrahim Shams al-Din had been taking stimulus pills to keep him awake at night for fear of a military coup. Maj. Ibrahim Shams al-Din is the first member of the RCC to be affected by insanity and nervous breakdown.

RCC Member on Developing Cooperation With Iran

EA1211132090 Khartoum SUNA in English 0914 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Wad Madani, Sudan 12 November (SUNA)—Member of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, and the governor of the Central Region, Colonel Sulayman M. Sulayman has said the cooperation relation between Sudan and the Islamic Republic of Iran will shortly witness intense further development. In a press statement yesterday, Col. Sulayman stated that the outcome of his recent visit to Iran will be implemented in the coming days.

He indicated that the current visit of an Iranian technical delegation to the country is aimed at discussions of cooperation aspects with the different ministries. The RCC member described the arrival of the Iranian delegation as a clear evidence of the Iranian Government's intention to cooperate with Sudan.

Accord Reached on Libyan Commodity Loan

EA1111183890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Nov (SUNA)—The agriculture ministers of Sudan, Libya, Egypt, and Syria will hold in Damascus on 12-13 November a meeting to discuss a unified plan for purchases of agricultural commodities by these countries and the facilitation of trade among them. Today technical meetings will be held to lay down the basic framework for the talks of the four agriculture ministers.

Meanwhile the director of the department for agricultural investment, Dr. Sulayman Ahmad, said that agreement had been reached between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah to implement the commodity loan worth $10 million on the basis of which the Jamahiriyah supplied Sudan with 40,000 metric tons of urea fertilizer while 15,000 metric tons of cement and a number of tractors and pumps would be supplied later.

Increasing Relations With Ethiopia Discussed

EA1011161290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the peace department, yesterday chaired the regular meeting of the peace and foreign relations department. The African Department at the Foreign Ministry submitted a paper on Sudanese-Ethiopian relations. An elaborate discussion took place on it. The meeting stressed the necessity of developing the relations in all spheres in view of the ties that bind the Sudanese and Ethiopian peoples and the joint interests that bring them together. The meeting called for the intensification of contacts between the two countries at all levels. [passage omitted]

Oman

Deputy Premier Meets UK Official, USSR Envoy

JN1011161090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, this morning received Air Major General Wilson, commander of the British Air Force in the Gulf region, in his office at the Bayt al-falaj camp. They discussed issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Air Force Staff Major General Talib Bin-Miran al-Ra'isi, commander of the Omani Air Force. Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id also received Soviet Ambassador to the Sultanate Aleksandr Patsev this afternoon.

They exchanged views and reviewed issues of mutual interest to the two friendly countries. Officials at the office of the deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs attended the meetings.

Sultan Receives Message From Senegal President

JN1011152390 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a written message from His Excellency Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on friendly bilateral relations. Hilal Bin-Sa'ud Bin-Harib, minister of justice, awqaf, and Islamic affairs, was handed the message for his majesty the sultan when he received the Senegalese President's envoy, (Piernot Habib Tal), at his office this morning.

Somali Prime Minister Arrives in Muscat

JN1111115990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Muscat, 11 Nov (WAKH)—Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hawadle Madar arrived in Muscat this morning on a one-day official visit to the Sultanate of Oman as part of a tour in the region.

The Somali prime minister will hold talks with senior Omani officials on bilateral issues, the situation in the Gulf, and issues of common interest. Hawadle was received on arrival by Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs; a number of Omani officials; and the Somali ambassador in Muscat.

Qatar

Somali Prime Minister Arrives for Talks On Gulf Tour

JN1111153590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 11 Nov (WAKH)—Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hawadle Madar arrived in Doha this evening on a visit to the State of Qatar within his current Gulf tour.

The Qatari news agency said that during his four-day visit, the Somali prime minister will hold talks with senior Qatari officials on bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

'Not Optimistic' on Summit

JN1211105190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 12 Nov (WAKH)—Somali Information Minister Omar Abdirahman [name as received] has demanded an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the restoration of the legitimate government to His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and Iraq's abidance by all Arab and international resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

At a press conference in Doha today, he expressed his country's readiness—despite the difficult circumstances it is experiencing—to contribute forces to the multinational force in the Gulf region if it is asked to. The Somali official praised Qatar's decision to forgive the debts of a number of Arab and African states, including Somalia. He said this decision will contribute positively toward finding solutions to world problems, noting that this move is considered a sound and successful one in this direction. [passage omitted]

On the call of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco for an extraordinary Arab summit to resolve the Gulf crisis, he said he was not optimistic about such a summit and the results it might lead to, indicating that he does not object to the convocation of Arab meetings if they are aimed at solving Arab problems. [passage omitted]

Discusses Gulf Crisis With Amir

JN1211152890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1020 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 12 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received Somali Prime Minister Mr. Mohamed Hawadle Madar this morning.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister attended the audience.

The QATARI NEW AGENCY said that the Somali Prime Minister conveyed to the Amir of Qatar an oral message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre on the current situation in the Gulf region as a result of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against the fraternal State of Kuwait. The message affirms the Somali stand condemning the aggression and its adherence to the implementation of the resolutions of the Cairo emergency Arab summit and Security Council stipulating the immediate and total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and restoring the legitimate government there represented by its amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

The message also deals with events and developments in the Horn of Africa and Somalia, bilateral relations and means of bolstering and expanding cooperation.

According to the news agency, discussions also focused on developments in the Gulf crisis, the current and future effects of the crisis on Arab relations, and the need to fully adhere to the will of the Arab nation and the international community represented by the Cairo summit and Security Council resolutions on the crisis.

The news agency said Mr. Hawadle informed his highness the amir of Qatar of the situation in Somalia, the political reforms which are being implemented, and the efforts being made to achieve Somali national reconciliation.

Talks also focused on the appropriate means to bolster and expand bilateral relations.

Leaves Doha 14 Nov

JN1411160990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0815 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hawadle Madar left Doha this morning after a four-day official visit to Qatar. His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister, led those who saw off the Somali prime minister. Mr. Madar had held talks with Qatari officials on the current situation in the Gulf region as well as Qatari-Somali relations.

Saudi Arabia

UK Official Visits Kingdom, Discusses Gulf

Received by Prince Sultan

LD1311121690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, conferred at his residence in Jeddah today with His Excellency Tom King, the British defense minister. They examined at the meeting the current situation brought about by the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal; Mr. 'Uthman al-Humayd, assistant to the minister of defense and aviation for military affairs; and Lieutenant General Salih Muhammad al-Sudays, commander of the Western Region. On the British side were Alan Munro, British ambassador to the Kingdom, and Peter de la Billiere, commander of the British forces in the Gulf. Following the meeting the British secretary and his accompanying delegation had lunch with His Royal Highness.

His Excellency the British Secretary of Defense Tom King arrived in Jeddah this afternoon within the framework of his current tour of the region. [passage omitted]

Meets With King Fahd

LD1311155490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud at his office at the al-Salam Palace in Jeddah today received His Excellency Mr. Tom King, the British Secretary of State for Defense, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Excellency Ibrahim al-'Anqarithe, private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and cabinet member; His Excellency 'Ali al-Musallam, the adviser at the Royal Office; and Sir Alan Gordon Munroe, British ambassador to the Kingdom.

PRC Minister Delivers Departure Statement

LD1311194590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen made a statement to the TV service, in which he said: I am very pleased to have visited the kingdom of Saudi Arabia twice in the course of few days. I was received by the His Majesty the Saudi King this evening. During the meetings and talks his majesty first discussed our normal relations, and his majesty expressed his satisfaction and [word indistinct] at the development of bilateral relations, which embrace various fields. We (?spent more time) discussing the Gulf crisis. The two sides expressed their view that the current crisis is (?passing through) a dangerous and crucial (?stage). The PRC foreign minister and his accompanying delegation left Jeddah yesterday evening after a short visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted].

Yemeni Refugees Report Attempts To Kill Salih

JN1411154790 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 1, 15

[By Hasan al-Huzaymi in Jizan]

[Excerpt] Yemeni brothers fleeing from Sanaa to Jizan have said that Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has been the subject of a number of assassination attempts, which were thwarted at the last minute.

One of the fleeing Yemenis, who once occupied an important position, told AL-YAWM that the latest of these attempts took place last week when one of the lieutenant general's guards prepared to shoot him; but members of his private guard, which includes some

Iraqis, hastily riddled the guard with bullets and killed him before he could shoot the president of the Yemeni regime.

Yemeni brothers returning from their country trying to flee the inhuman practices against them by the regime of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih continue, to flood into the Jizan region after a tortuous trek, and to talk about the sufferings of the Yemeni people. AL-YAWM met one of these brothers. He talked about the role of Yemeni media in planning, implementing, and promoting support for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Briefs Cabinet on Baker Meeting

LD1211190190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-al-'Aziz presided over the cabinet weekly meeting this afternoon at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Following the meeting, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: At the beginning of the meeting, the cabinet reviewed the latest developments in the Arab Gulf, on the crisis of the various reports submitted to it.

King Fahd then made a comprehensive and precise analysis of the various Arab and international stances and the statements made by some leaders in respect of the Gulf crisis.

In this context, King Fahd acquainted the cabinet with the results of his talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, which he described as positive and frank and compatible with the objectives and expectations. [passage omitted]

The cabinet then discussed a number of local matters including those pertaining to duties and powers of the cabinet's general committee and the need to speed up matters referred to it, as a prelude to announcement of the state's general budget for the coming year. [passage omitted]

Editorial Considers Kahane Killing

PM1311113790 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 7 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "...And Doyen of Zionist Terror Has Fallen!"]

[Text] Meir Kahane, proponent of the plan to expel the Palestinians from the occupied territories and a pillar of Israeli terror, has been killed—by the same method which he had always used and urged his myrmidons to use. The importance of the event lies not only in the fact that a terrorist has been liquidated, but also in the fact that Israel's traditional method has been interrupted, because it had always regarded the Arab area as open to its actions, hitting whatever targets it wanted without its security or leaders being affected.

The strike is aimed not only against a person but also at affirming that there are those who have the capability to transcend and hit Israeli immunity. Undoubtedly, the action reflects a development in performance and planning, regardless of any justifications by the enemy or others.

While Israel continues to rely on choosing the time and place for implementing its tasks—like the recent Jerusalem massacre crime, for example—Kahane's murder is a profound reply. This is because he is one of the symbols who promote crime and blind fanaticism and instigate extremist movements to do what they want to the Palestinians. Suffice it that he is the most senior figure to be assassinated before the eyes and ears of Israel, even though the incident took place in Manhattan, the United States.

The more important issue is that the ghost of that terrorist's assassination will extend to major Israeli figures—which means that belittling others' strength or scorning them would place the Zionist institution in a more troubled situation. This is especially true because the prinicple of hunting important figures, which was available to Israel alone, makes this event a serious indication and an invasion of the secrecy which Israel has long admired in terms of protecting its leaders and quickly intercepting any emergency before it takes place.

The event is important not only politically, but also because the authority of terror has lost a loved one—which differs from any other event, especially at a time when Israel's racism has moved to practical measures without fearing any deterrent or blame.

We say that the region, which is moving toward extremism and talk about war and destruction, must realize that persons of the Kahane type will continue to exist as long as there are those who welcome terror and the policy of bloody liquidations. We do not believe that Israel will find this incident an easy one. It was accustomed to less serious reactions, but it is now facing another trend capable of trading the same actions with it, thus accelerating the whirlpool in a war which has its scourges and bloody shadows.

United Arab Emirates

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1411083490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He was received by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Foreign Ministry officials, and Saudi Ambassador to the UAE Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Utaybi.

Reviews Position on Summit Call

JN1411140090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1256 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Abu Dhabi today at the

conclusion of a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] during which he conveyed a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, to UAE President Saykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on regional developments.

In a predeparture statement here today, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that any Arab meeting will fail to produce results unless Iraq complies with the resolutions adopted at the August emergency Arab summit in Cairo and accepts the international resolutions calling for an Iraqi troop withdrawal, reinstatement of Kuwaiti legitimacy, and return to the status prior to 2 August.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal declared that "if there is a commitment to this effect, a meeting would undoubtedly be fruitful."

Asked whether the message he conveyed from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan concerned the Moroccan call to convene a summit and Saudi Arabia's position on the matter, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal replied that the message fell within the framework of the continuous coordination and consultations between the two leaders on all the issues facing the Gulf region on the one hand and the whole Arab nation on the other.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added that the views as exchanged with His Highness Shaykh Zayid during the talks were identical on all issues. He stated that these consultations are extremely necessary in these delicate times. He added: As regards the call for a summit, our countries have always been advocates of Arab rapprochement. There was an Arab summit which adopted a comprehensive resolution on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We believe that it is necessary for Iraq to declare its acceptance of the summit resolution and also of the international resolutions that demand Iraq's withdrawal, a reinstatement of legitimacy, and a return to the status prior to 2 August. If a commitment to this effect were to be made, meetings would undoubtedly be fruitful. Otherwise, such meetings would fail to produce any fruits or results.

Zayid Receives Fahd Message

JN1411123990 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1128 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, dealing with developments in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, as well as the Arab and international positions on the Gulf crisis. The message is part of the continuing consultations and assessments by the two leaders.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal conveyed the message during his meeting with the UAE president in Abu Dhabi today.

Turkish Treasury Minister Arrives 12 Nov

JN1211175190 Manama WAKH in English
1635 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, Nov 12 (GNA)—The undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of the Treasury and Foreign Trade and envoy of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Namik Kamal Kilic, arrived here this evening on a two-day visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates] as part of his Gulf tour. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Zayid Receives Message

JN1311165490 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1034 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a written message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal dealing with regional developments and bilateral relations.

The message was handed by Namik Kamal Kilic, under secretary of the Turkish Ministry of Treasury and Foreign Trade and the Turkish president's envoy, when his highness received him here today.

UK Defense Secretary Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1211081290 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0756 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Nov (WAKH)—Thomas King, British secretary of state for defense, arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning leading a delegation on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was received upon arrival by Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid Al Maktum and Chief of Staff Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi.

Meets President

JN1211145890 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1105 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, today received Thomas King, British secretary of state for defense, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they reviewed the developments of the situation in the region in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the fraternal State of Kuwait, in addition to bilateral relations of cooperation and friendship.

British Defense Secretary Departs Following Visit

JN1311163290 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic
0930 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Thomas King, British secretary of state for defense, left this morning concluding a two-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the

Armed Forces; Major General Mudar Salim al-Zahiri, assistant chief of staff for administration and logistics; Staff Brigadier General Rashid Sayf al-Riyami, commander of the Air Force and Air Defense; and several high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces.

Somali Prime Minister on Visit to Abu Dhabi

Meets President Zayid

EA1011143890 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Today Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hawadle Madar and his delegation, who are currently visiting the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met UAE President Zayid bin Sultan Al Nahayyan in Abu Dhabi. During the meeting the prime minister delivered a message from Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre, president of Somalia.

The sides held talks on issues concerning the Gulf, especially the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, and analyzed ways to resolve the problem through an Arab solution. President Zayid and Comrade Mohamed Hawadle Madar also discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations in the political, economic, and social spheres. They talked in particular about the conditions of Somali workers in the Emirates.

President Zayid clarified that his country will not withhold any assistance from Somalia. The meeting took place in a warm atmosphere of friendship and fraternity. It is expected that on 10 November the two governments will hold official bilateral talks of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Terms Visit 'Fruitful'

JN1111085290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 11 Nov (WAKH)—Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Hawadle Madar left Abu Dhabi today following a several-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE], during which he conveyed a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Somali President Comrade Mohamed Siad Barre. [passage omitted]

In a predeparture statement to WAM [EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY], the Somali prime minister said that he regards his visit to the UAE as successful and fruitful, where the view of UAE officials and those of the Somali side were identical with regard to the issues discussed, foremost being a commitment to Arab and international resolutions on the need for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops and the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait, in addition to developing and promoting bilateral relations.

Yemen

Iraqi Envoy Stresses Arab Solution, Departs

JN1011180690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Nizar Hamdun, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, left Sanaa today after a four-day visit during which he delivered a message to Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abadallah Salih from his brother President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY—SABA', the Iraqi official said that during his meeting with the Presidential Council chairman they discussed events in the region and the importance of reaching an Arab solution and continuing all political and peaceful efforts to strengthen the Arab situation, end the crisis, and return all foreign troops to their countries.

The Iraqi president's envoy said he met with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Foreign Ministry undersecretary. He discussed and exchanged opinions with them on current developments in relations between the two foreign ministries. Seeing him off at the airport were the Foreign Ministry undersecretary, a presidential protocol representative, and Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa 'Abd-al-Husayn Ibrahim al-Rifa'i.

Al-Bid Says United Yemen 'Factor of Stability'

JN1011102190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Presidential Council, has asserted that Yemeni unity constitutes a factor of stability in the region, and that we in the Republic of Yemen do now want to be a source of menace to anyone. [passage omitted]

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid explained that the foreign military presence in the Gulf and the Peninsula threatens not only pan-Arab security, but also the security of the Arab countries that brought in these forces, [word indistinct] their independence and (?capabilities).

This was stated during an interview with the correspondent of the BBC aired by London radio last night. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on Yemeni-Saudi relations, the return of Yemeni expatriates, and his explanation for the unfriendly Saudi conduct toward Yemen, the brother vice chairman of the Presidential Council said: Saudi conduct is something left up to it to decide. However, we wish Saudi Arabia would not take such a stand, because we are two neighborly countries bound by brotherly relations, whether by kinship or Islam. But it seems that Saudi Arabia has chosen this position at a certain time. Moreover, Saudi Arabia [word indistinct] large numbers of our citizens without prior notice or sufficient advice so that people would prepare themselves to return to the homeland,

because whatever the situation, they will have to think ultimately about returning to their homeland. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about the reasons that prompted Saudi Arabia to act in this way, the vice chairman said: You should direct this question to Saudi officials, if you can meet with any of them. However, the justifications which the Saudis have advanced are contradictory in nature. In the first period, they said that these measures were taken to [word indistinct] the developments of the Gulf crisis, [word indistinct] and (?by virtue of) the position which [words indistinct]. So, they made our citizens pay the price of this position, as they declared. Now they are saying something else: that the measures were taken because of problems between the two countries before the Gulf crisis [word indistinct]. However, you can discover the answer to this question.

Answering a question on whether Saudi Arabia has any justification for thinking that Yemenis pose a threat to its security because of their sympathy with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid denied the presence of any such justification. He said, moreover, that Saudi Arabia has acted in this unbalanced way out of its feeling of might in the presence of foreign troops on its territory. He remarked: I am afraid that they might be deceived if they believe this to be true. The presence of foreign forces, be they U.S. or other troops, has [word indistinct] tens of thousands of various [word indistinct] of foreign forces. This presence threatens not only their security, but threatens us all. This presence usurps their independence and the independence of their decisionmaking; therefore, it threatens pan-Arab security. This is the first time that we know of anyone in the world paying the price of an occupation and paying millions of dollars so that other forces should come and occupy his country. This is happening for the first time in history. I say that these forces have not come to say hello and (?depart).

Asked whether Saudi Arabia constitutes a danger to Yemen—even before the Gulf crisis—brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid explained that Saudi Arabia, regrettably, contemplates ambitions in Yemen. He said these ambitions [words indistinct] at any time, or at certain times man is overtaken by his ambitions [word indistinct]. He added that our brothers in Saudi Arabia should have considered the issue for some time. He said there is no reason why anyone should be preoccupied with these ideas and these harmful positions. According to this (?explanation), Saudi Arabia has adopted all the measures which harm our security. The presence of these forces and their conduct and actions all represent a threat to our national security, despite the fact that we in Yemen have not done anything—we even (?froze) some measures which resulted from the unification of Yemen in the security and military fields—so as to avoid any wrong interpretation or gap that might be used by others.

The brother vice chairman denied that our forces had moved any units to the north. He said, however, that if the need arises, we will be forced to do whatever is deemed necessary to defend our national sovereignty.

Asked whether united Yemen—whose population outnumbers the population of Saudi Arabia—constitutes a threat to Saudi Arabia, he replied: We do not want to be a menace to anyone. On the contrary, the unity of Yemen is a factor of stability in the region. We extend our hands to all those surrounding us to bolster brotherly relations, good-neighborliness, and joint ventures in order to create better circumstances for our people and all the peoples in the region, and to work with other Arab countries to enhance Yemen's status and role, and its pan-Arab commitments toward Arab issues in general, the Palestine cause in particular. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Interviewed on Crisis, Other Issues

JN0911151090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers, has said that our country is committed to Security Council resolutions by virtue of its membership in this organization. He said that the invasion of Kuwait was a development not supported by our country.

This came in an interview given by the brother prime minister to the BBC Arabic Section. In the interview, brother al-'Attas also said that Yemen is heading toward democracy and a multiparty system, assisted by the Yemenis' history in this area.

He added that the Yemeni national movement, with its various factions, has contributed to the emergence of the [word indistinct] September and October revolutions and to their success. He pointed out that this background and contribution make us confident that a multiparty system in Yemen would be useful and would bolster the country's march toward progress and success.

On current relations between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the prime minister pointed out that the (?current) problems with Saudi Arabia need a discussion of all disputed issues through fraternal, equal dialogue.

Returning Nationals To Replace Foreign Workers

NC1211202690 Paris AFP in English 1911 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 12 (AFP)—Yemen will replace some 100,000 foreign workers, including many Asians, with Yemeni nationals before the end of the year amid rising unemployment linked to the Gulf crisis, an official at the Labour Ministry said.

He said the move was aimed at finding jobs for thousands of Yemenis who were recently expelled from Saudi Arabia over Yemen's stance on the Gulf crisis.

Foreigners working in the education and health fields will not be affected by the new measure, the official said.He said the move was aimed at finding jobs for thousands of Yemenis who were recently expelled from Saudi Arabia over Yemen's stance on the Gulf crisis.

Foreigners working in the education and health fields will not be affected by the new measure, the official said.According to the Labour Ministry more than 92,000 Yemenis have filled job applications since the start of the Gulf crisis that was triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait.

Many of the applicants are Yemeni technicians and labourers expelled from Saudi Arabia.

According to the government here more than 700,000 Yemenis have returned home since Saudi Arabia decided on September 19 to cancel special privileges to some two million Yemeni nationals who lived in the neighbouring kingdom.

Further on Ramsey Clark Visit to Baghdad

Confers With Justice Minister

JN1111145190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—Justice Minister Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Ali met with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark here today. They exchanged views on current developments in the Arab region, particularly the Arabian Gulf.

Confers With Assembly Speaker

JN1111212390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met this evening with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who is currently visiting Iraq.

Mr. Salih reviewed Iraq's peaceful positions toward the situation in the Arabian Gulf despite the U.S. provocations and conspiratorial and aggressive positions against Iraq. He stressed that the presence of U.S. forces in the Arab land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is aimed at attacking Iraq and occupying oil sources with a view to controlling the world economically. He pointed out the need for the withdrawal of U.S. and other forces from the region.

Mr. Clark praised Iraq's calls for peace and renunciation of war, indicating that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is the optimal way to maintain peace and security in the region and solve all its problems. He pointed out that a large number of Americans are ready to join peace camps on Iraqi territory as an expression of their rejection of war and its destructive effect.

Meets With Red Crescent Chief

JN1111211090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—Mr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, president of Iraq's Red Crescent Society, this evening met with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Mr. al-Nuri praised the responsive attitude of humanitarian organizations, especially Red Cross societies around the world, toward the people of Iraq as they face an economic blockade imposed by the United States, its allies, and agents. Mr. Clark expressed the hope for peace in the region and beyond.

Discusses Crisis With Aziz

JN1311131190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1226 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general.

They exchanged views on regional developments in light of the threats posed by the U.S.-Atlantic military presence to peace, the region, and the entire world. They emphasized the need to look for a peaceful and comprehensive solution to all problems in the region in light of President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August.

Confirms Four Americans To Leave

JN1311202590 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2010 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Iraq has said it will allow four American nationals to leave. The decision was confirmed by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who today ended a visit to Baghdad. He said two of the Americans will leave Baghdad tomorrow.

Departs 13 Nov

JN1311140190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1258 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark left Baghdad today after a four-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, Mr. Clark said he was happy to have visited Iraq and meet with President Saddam Husayn. He declared that it was necessary to solve all problems in the region through dialogue and negotiations away from threats and interference that could increase the tension and start a destructive war in the region.

He pointed out the importance of solving the Gulf crisis through an Arab solution away from all kinds of foreign intervention.

British Women Said Appreciative of 'Hospitality'

JN1211074490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—A number of British women currently visiting Iraq in light of the invitation Iraq made to the families of the Iraqi people have praised the warm welcome and hospitality they received during their visit.

In an interview broadcast by Baghdad Television this evening, they affirmed that the wish of many women in the world is to join them and demand peace to avoid a catastrophic war in the region and the world.

Mrs. Dorothy Cawdon [name as received] said: We came to Baghdad on a peace visit, and we hope the whole world will join us in our demand for peace. She expressed her thanks and appreciation to the Iraqi people and officials for the great warmth of their reception in the Iraq of leader Saddam Husayn.

They affirmed that their visit was accompanied by the full support and backing of the British people, proceeding from their belief in peace. She stressed that she is

certain that they will be able to convince the rest of the world's women to join them and work toward finding a peaceful solution to avert catastropes and destruction from the children and coming generations in the region and world.

Mrs. [name indistinct] said she had familiarized herself with her husband's condition after arriving in Baghdad with her British colleagues and found him to be in the best of shape, practicing the normal life available to him under comfortable circumstances. She expressed her thanks to the Iraqi people for providing her with the opportunity to visit Iraq and for receiving her with such hospitality.

Editor Denies Report on Officer Executions

JN1311212090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2052 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY international affairs editor has ridiculed the lies circulated by REUTER today that Iraq executed six officers with the rank of lieutenant general and 120 others with various ranks. The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY editor said that the transmitting of such lies by a news agency of REUTER's level without seeking accuracy will not make it an object of confidence.

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY editor added that what has been reported by REUTER, which cited a 26-year-old officer with the rank of captain, who—according to REUTER—escaped from Iraq to Turkey last August, is absolutely baseless.

The editor said that the lies circulated by these quarters basically aim at undermining the capability of the valiant Iraqi Army and its confrontation of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy led by the United States and its reactionary allies in the region.

Aziz Blames Future 'Provocative Acts' on CIA

JN1311134590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that if any provocative acts take place in the region, they would be arranged by the CIA to justify aggression against Iraq.

Commenting to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY on statements by official White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is issuing a strict warning about the criminal schemes of the U.S. Administration, which bears the responsibility for any action that could be described as a criminal act.

Fitzwater had talked about what he termed unexpected provocations by Iraq. He linked that to the military aggression the U.S. Administration is planning for.

The foreign minister went to say that Iraq reiterated its firm desire to attain a just and peaceful settlement to all the problems in the region. Iraq has dealt with the situation with great responsibility and principled concern about establishing peace. As for the American claims that the U.S. military deployment is to defend Saudi Arabia against the Iraqi threat, claims made at the beginning of the events, they are fabricated. This was exposed when Bush officially announced that he had changed his purpose from defense against the fabricated threat to aggression against Iraq. It was obvious that, as we have stated already, the U.S. Administration was planning from the beginning to carry out an aggression against Iraq to realize its imperialist goals in the region.

The deputy prime minister reiterated that the statements made by Fitzwater about alleged provocative acts on the part of Iraq have as their objective creating an excuse for the U.S. Administration to carry out an aggression under the cover of shuffling the cards and as part of an organized campaign to deceive the American people, the U.S. Congress, and world public opinion.

Saddam Comments on Talks With Qian Qichen

JN1211183690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn today received PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Mr. Qian Qichen conveyed to his excellency a written message from PRC President Yang Shangkun on the close relations between the two friendly countries and the PRC's concern to deal with the issues of the region and the world according to the principles of peace, dialogue, and understanding. He also conveyed the greetings of the PRC leadership to the president.

President Saddam Husayn welcomed the PRC foreign minister and praised the relations of friendship which bind Iraq and the PRC and the PRC's stands which support Arab issues, particularly the Palestine question. The president said that, contrary to all the countries of the world, the United States and Britain have threatened all the countries of the world and have started to dictate on many of the countries through the radio [as received] the amount of money they should pay, the forces they should send, and the political stands they should adopt. He said: Certainly, you now recall the direct threats to Spain, Japan, Italy, Germany, and how they imposed on them the amount to pay and what to discuss, contrary to their constitutions, so as to send forces to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

President Saddam Husayn asserted that America wants to play the role of the force that dominates the world. We wonder, is it in the interest of the world that one country should control the oil of the Middle East?

His excellency said: I say, out of human responsibility, and not national responsibility alone, that it is not in the

interest of the world that one country should control the oil of the Middle East, whatever the nationality of this country.

His excellency the president added that what happened on 2 August was not a cause but a result, and the same applies to the Lebanese developments. He pointed out that the Palestine question is one of the volatile issues that remains without a solution.

President Saddam Husayn emphasized that the linkage between the issues of the region is a tangible reality. It is therefore in the best interests of humanity that a comprehensive, complete peace prevail in the region and that all regional problems be resolved on the basis of cause and effect and linkage.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn said: The United States' main concern is oil, and once this is secured it will not be bothered by issues of interest to us and to humanity, most of all the Palestine issue. If the United States had had the desire to solve the Palestine problem, it would have done so long ago and would not have left it unresolved since 1948.

His excellency added: It is in the interest of the world for the United States to withdraw its forces from this region which it covets. It is also in the interest of the world to develop a consistent standard rather than double standards.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn indicated that, with the exception of Israel and the United States, all the nations of the world agree that Jerusalem and the Golan Heights are Arab. And yet Israel flies in the face of the whole world and annexes both Jerusalem and the Golan. How is it that the embargo imposed on us is not applied to Israel? The answer is that the United States is taking Israel's side against us and keeping the UN Security Council from passing anti-Israeli resolutions by exercisng the veto prerogative.

His excellency touched on the the al-Haram al-Sharif massacre in Jerusalem and noted that despite the suffering involved, a watered down resolution was passed and only after a good deal of U.S. maneuvering, and then the British foreign secretary went to Israel to make urgent appeals that it not reject the resolution, but Israel in the end rejected it.

The president added: The concern of everybody should be how to establish peace, and not to impose conditions by war. When this becomes the focus of attention for those concerned, then dialogue should be their way to secure the peace that they seek. Then, Iraq would be the first to discuss with an open mind and give precedence to all the formulas which could establish peace. Moreover, since Iraq has been one of the most important countries in the region which is ready to make sacrifices for the sake of peace, then when a serious dialogue and a serious discussion of the paths of peace become available, Iraq will not forget its role and the need for it to properly seek to establish peace for all.

The president added that people who have a deep-rooted civilization also have a deep sense of dignity, and reject threats and submission to threats. However, they are always generous along the path of equal dialogue which is based on mutual respect. Therefore, threats and the use of force will not compel us to pursue the road leading to the results sought by those counting on the use of force. Proceeding from this logic, we think it is not in the interest of humanity nor in the interest of Iraq and the Arab nation that Iraq accepts the results desired by those threatening to use force.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that it is our humanitarian, as well as national, duty to seek with the others to end any double standards in viewing things and applying the principles of the international resolutions. While some international parties are talking about arms and armament in Iraq, they do not talk about them in "Israel." When they talk about Iraq's military power, they do not talk about "Israel's." Therefore, the theater before us includes a blatant contradiction with a very well-defined vocabulary.

The president asked Qian Qichen to convey his greetings to PRC President Yang Shangkun.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; the head of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's East Asia and North Africa Department; the Chinese ambassador-designate to Iraq; and the Chinese charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

British Labor Party Delegation Arrives for Talks

JN1211213790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2124 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—A parliamentary delegation of the British Labor Party arrived here today on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Mr. Ron Brown, parliament member and head of the delegation, said that the delegation will meet with a number of Iraqi officials to discuss the developments in the Arabian Gulf. He added that he does not believe in the use of force to resolve problems among countries and nations, and that such methods increase tension.

Brown Meets Speaker

JN1311163390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with Ron Brown, member of Parliament and the British Labor Party.

The National Assembly speaker said that the front of peace pioneers in the world is growing stronger and more united day by day to silence the voices calling for war. He said a just peace and security are the supreme goals that

honorable people are seeking to realize—except for Thatcher and Bush, both of whom think selfishly, with perverse logic.

He stated that the justification of protecting human rights and international legitimacy is nothing but an exposed cover for U.S. practices in various parts of the world and is its constant cover for the Zionist entity's crimes against our Palestinian Arab people—whose rights have been usurped for over 42 years. We see no one calling for the protection of these human rights—which the warmongers profess to be doing.

Mr. Ron Brown expressed his appreciation for Iraq's peace initiatives to remove the scourge of war from the region and the world. He said that this is now echoing among British public opinion. He also affirmed that public opinion polls recently indicated a drop in the percentage of those who support Mrs. Thatcher's policy on the development of events in the Gulf region.

Blames Thatcher, Bush

JN1311221690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Mr. Ron Brown, British Labor member of parliament, has said that Bush and Thatcher are the main reasons for the current escalation of tension in the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, he said that the presence of U.S. and British military forces in the region threatens the entire world, not only the region. He added that the armed threats by the U.S. Administration and Thatcher government, with support from some Arab regimes, endanger the whole Middle East and threaten massive and unpredictable losses if war breaks out. The scourge of war will affect many other areas in the world, he added.

Mr. Brown said this massive buildup of military forces equipped with horrible means of destruction and developed weapons and equipment is not intended to protect democracy or international legitimacy, as war advocates claim. Rather, it is intended to protect the interests of some states in exploiting the region's geostrategic position and wealth, especially oil.

He said when Bush talks about a new world order, he means the achievement of the U.S. interests and its methods of imposing conditions on other countries. He pointed out that Bush and Thatcher are now in a difficult position thanks to growing awareness among U.S. and British public opinion and to their loss of the popularity on which they wagered in their attempt to pass the resolutions that may place the world on the edge of the volcano.

He said that Thatcher in particular is facing political and economic difficulties and suffering from great internal problems. Through igniting the war in the Gulf—as she did in the Falklands in 1982—Thatcher is trying to divert attention from the problems storming her government. He stressed that this is a sterile policy and reflects the danger of the person adopting it to humanity.

Mr. Brown said that Mrs. Thatcher's policy is now meeting strong opposition in Britain, even by circles within her own party—on which she is counting for support—and by other British political circles.

He said Iraq's peaceful initiatives and its efforts to bring about just and comprehensive peace in the region have begun to meet large-scale understanding, especially in the British House of Commons. He said that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is a subject of interest and consideration in British political circles because it shows logic and rationalism in reaching a solution to the Gulf crisis and all problems in the Middle East and removing the specter of war. He stressed that calm and peaceful dialogue, away from threats of armed force, is the correct way to reach a solution to all problems of the world, especially the problems of the region, which I think have lasted for a long time and urgently need radical solutions on the basis of justice, equality, and friendly relations among countries and peoples.

Former New Zealand, Danish Top Officials Arrive

JN0911211490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange arrived in Baghdad this evening leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, David Lange said he will meet during the visit with a number of Iraqi officials to explain his country's viewpoint on the situation in the Arab Gulf. David Lange expressed the need to bring about a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis without using military force. He indicated that New Zealand will try hard to resolve all the region's problems peacefully.

Former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen arrived in Baghdad leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

The two delegations were received at the airport by members of the Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, and the New Zealand and Danish ambassadors.

Meet With Official

JN1011211790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2018 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—Mr. 'Adnan Dawud Salman, head of the Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, met separately tonight with former New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. David Lange and former Danish Prime Minister Mr. Anker Jorgensen, currently visiting Iraq.

The head of the organization briefed the two guests on the attempts to undermine Iraq through an aggressive campaign by the United States and its allies to prevent its scientific and technological progress. He also noted the Iraqi constant stand on resolving the Gulf problem and all the problems of the region by peaceful means.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange said that the New Zealand people see no justification for the military presence of the United States and its allies in the Arabian gulf region, describing it as an unjustifiable action. He also said that the pressure brought by the United States on the New Zealand Government to send military forces would not succeed. Moreover, New Zealand has denounced Australia's dispatch of forces to the Arabian Gulf, he said. He also expressed his support for resolving all the problems of the region, remarking that the Arabs alone can resolve their own problems.

Former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen called for a peaceful solution to the problems of the region and the Arabian Gulf. He added that he and the Danish Social Democratic Party, which he currently chairs, are against the principle of using armed force to resolve problems. He further noted that the U.S. and Western presence in the region is unjustified.

Lange Praises Initiative

JN1011151990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange has said that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative deserves discussion because it offers security and peace not only in the Middle East, but also in the world. In an arrival statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper in Baghdad yesterday, he added that the dangers of war are well known and that we should do our best to prevent it.

Criticizes U.S. Policy

JN1111132090 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 11, INA—Mr David Lange, former New Zealander prime minister confirmed that President Saddam Husayn's initiative aims at resolving all problems of the region peacefully. In a statement published by AL-THAWRAH daily of today, Mr Lange said that America did not give the chance to consider the Gulf crisis peacefully, pointing out that many countries had rallied behind the United States' banner and sent their forces under false pretexts.

Mr Lange criticized the U.S. policy in dealing with the problems stressing that this action was expected from America after it had invaded Panama and Grenada and its continued support for "Israel", which has been occupying the Arab land. Concerning the U.S.-brokered unjust resolutions imposed by the United Nations against Iraq and those against "Israel", Mr Lange criticized the U.S. double-faced policy saying at a time it pretended to defend the international legitimacy, it ignored the Zionist occupation to the occupied Arab lands.

He also condemned the economic blockade imposed against Iraq, and U.S. attempts to starve the Iraq people for settling the Gulf crisis the act of which was considered an unhumane and immoral action.

Meets Ramadan

JN1111170090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange and his delegation left Baghdad today after a three-day visit to Iraq. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, met with David Lange this morning. During the meeting, Ramadan said that stepping up the war rhetoric and military threat by the U.S. Administration and its allies clearly indicates their hostile policy and their opposition to peace in the region. He stressed that the Iraqis have strong defenses and are capable of defending their rights and honor and of repulsing the waves of aggression.

Ramadan also said that the Arabs have lost confidence in the American-NATO promises because the Security Council resolutions calling for the Zionists' withdrawal from the occupied territories in Palestine, Lebanon, and the Golan have remained unimplemented for tens of years and that no blockade or punishment resolutions have been imposed on the Zionists, who are escalating their aggression against the Palestinians with the help and support of the United States.

The former New Zealand prime minister expressed his greetings and those of the New Zealand people to leader President Saddam Husayn. He also highly valued Iraq's courageous and wise positions and affirmed that the international community rejects the blockade as well as resolutions preventing food and medicine from reaching Iraq, because they are illegal, illegitimate, and conflict with the goals of the Security Council and international charters.

He pointed out that leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is the best vehicle for solving all the region's problems, stressing the need for a comprehensive solution so that stability, peace, and security can prevail in the region. The meeting was attended by 'Adnan Dawud Salman, head of the Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization. Present at the airport to see off the former New Zealand prime minister were a number of officials of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization and the New Zealand ambassador in Baghdad.

Jorgensen Wants Conference

JN1211141490 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 12 Nov 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 12, INA—Danish Former Prime Minister Mr. Anker Jorgensen said President Saddam Husayn's peace plan of August 12 could be an important part of an overall solution to the problems in the Middle East region.

Mr. Jorgensen told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that Iraqi officials have asserted that the peace plan is not a take-it-or-leave-it proposal.

"I take it that what is especially the background for this proposal is the need to find a comprehensive solution to the problems of the Middle East", explained Mr. Jorgensen.

Mr. Jorgensen added that the superpowers and the Western countries should play their role to settle the problem peacefully. He said, "I will recommend that the big countries in the West and the Soviet Union must try to consider the proposals of President Saddam Husayn very seriously because I think that every party to this conflict, which is going on, should say very clearly that a war is not a solution to the problems of the region. I am quite sure that a war would be a catastrophe, so all parties must work to avoid it".

The Danish former prime minister added that he believes that more work is needed to stop the outbreak of a war.

Also he expressed a strong hope that there is a good future for Iraq and the whole region, adding, "I am also here to work for the Danish citizens. I want to make an agreement to take them home".

Mr. Jorgensen also referred to world prominent figures' proposals to settle the Middle East issue peacefully.

"There are good proposals from different nations, and we hope that these proposals will be fundamental for negotiating a peaceful future for the region", said Mr. Jorgensen.

"I share the same points of view with Mr. Willy Brandt, and with his thinking and ideas. I feel they should be possible alternatives to make a peaceful solution to the crisis".

Mr. Jorgensen said he believed that there must be a peace conference attended by all Arab countries to agree on a solution. "The absolute best will be if the Arab countries could agree", stressed Mr. Jorgensen.

We have to understand that all countries must work in the direction of peace. In this connection I must say that all countries have the responsibility of finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. It is very bad that there is a kind of war between the Israelis and the Palestinian people. I strongly believe that we absolutely need to understand that there must be a state, a homeland for the Palestinian people. I am really disappointed that the United Nations' Resolution No 242 is still not implemented.

Therefore I think it is the obligation of the countries concerned and the United Nations to underline the need to enforce Resolution 242, because it is the only way that can make peace in the Middle East, added Mr. Jorgensen who is also the president of the Nordic Council.

Mr. Jorgensen said, as a chairman of a 7-man commission inside Socialist International, the world 91-party organisation which Willy Brandt is still a president, and the most comprehensive and important international party organisation that exists now, I must say that this commission has travelled and visited the West Bank, Gaza Strip, parts of Israel and Palestinian camps and hospitals, and held talks with local Palestinian leaders.

The commission has also had talks with representatives from Israel and some parties in the Knesset. Our commission has likewise had long talks with Shamir, and I really feel that he absolutely lacks understanding of the need for negotiations with Palestinian representatives.

I must say I cannot accept the bad way with which the Israeli soldiers and Government fight the Palestinian people.

Mr. Jorgensen stressed the urgency of dealing with the Middle East issues as a whole. "I think we need to combine the two questions, (The Palestinian and the Gulf). We need a comprehensive solution for the two problems".

Meets With Speaker

JN1211173690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—Sa'di Mahdi Salih, National Assembly Speaker, today received Former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen. The National Assembly speaker stressed that the waving of threats of war and military forces by the U.S. Administration is not aimed only against Iraq, but has dangerous meanings for the Middle Eastern peoples and the whole world.

He said Iraq's peaceful initiatives, despite the provocations directed against it and the unfair economic blockade imposed on it, confirm the depth of our people's belief in their humanitarian and civilized role to spare the world the catastrophes that would result from armed confrontation in this vital part of the world.

The National Assembly speaker and the former Danish prime minister held talks on bilateral relations and exchanged views on the developments in the region. The talks were attended by the chairman and members of the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee.

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

JN1411085590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0848 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, arrived here today leading a delegation on an official two-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that his visit to Iraq is in reply to the recent visit to Iran by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

He also said that the visit is in line with the desire to normalize and promote relations between the two neighborly countries which are linked by a long, joint history.

'Ali Akbar Velayati is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Sarmadi, assistant foreign minister for information affairs; Hojaji, representative of the Islamic Consultative Council; and Syrus al-Nasiri, Iran's permanent representative in Geneva. [all names of Iranian officials as received]

The Iranian foreign minister and the delegation accompanying him were received by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the two under secretaries of the Foreign Ministry; Barazan Ibarahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the UN's European Office in Geneva; and the charges d'affaires of the two countries.

Former Egyptian Chief of Staff Arrives 10 Nov

JN1011181390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—This evening, Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhli, former chief of staff of Egypt's Armed Forces, arrived in Baghdad on a visit of several days.

He told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY his visit confirms his solidarity with the people and Government of Iraq as they stand up to a fierce Zionist-imperialist onslaught. He said His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative was a very good proposal, since it addresses all the problems of the region and sets out urgent and comprehensive solutions based on UN resolutions.

Praises Initiative

JN1111145590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Sa'd al-Din al-Shadhli, former chief of staff of Egypt's Armed Forces, has praised leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. He said that it deserves study and interest by those who reject it, because it calls for justice and equality in dealing with the region's various issues.

In a statement to AL-THAWRAH newspaper, he added that it is unreasonable for the world led by the United States to act against Iraq in light of the Arabian Gulf crisis, while it is keeping silent about the decades-old Palestine question.

Meets With Saddam

JN1211123690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received Lieutenant General Sa'd al-Din al-Shadhli, former chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces.

Al-Shadhli denounced the American and Atlantic occupation of the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], which is considered a violation of the Islamic holy places and a grave encroachment on the feelings of the Arabs and Muslims. He affirmed the need to adopt a peaceful solution, and stated his rejection of the so-called military option to deal with the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Al-Shadhli praised the initiative of leader President Saddam Husayn, announced on 12 August, asserting the importance of dealing with all problems in the region, particularly the Palestine question and the Zionist occupation of the Arab territory. He said that the outbreak of a war in this region will drag the world into a real catastrophe that will last many years. And those who try to ignite, kindle, and encourage this war will not get away from its serious consequences, he said.

At the end of the meeting, al-Shadhli affirmed that the battle will be the battle of all good Arabs and of all Muslims in the world who reject the desecration of the holy places. The forces of the believers, led by Iraq, will triumph, and the forces of despotism and falsehood will be defeated.

The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Confers With Ramadan

JN1211170790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received Lieutenant General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhli, former chief of staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces today.

The first deputy prime minister said that the Arabs possess all the requirements of a large and great nation by virtue of the human energy, geographical size, time-honored history, and abundant wealth they possess.

He said that plotting and aggression against the Arabs in order to keep them backward and robbed of their will and wealth must come end, so that the Arabs can retain their will and strength, and so that their wealth can be invested in the interest of their sons who are suffering poverty and starvation because of the collusion of the rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and others who are slavish to America.

Lt. Gen. Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhli expressed deep confidence in the ability of the Iraqi Army to defend the rights of Iraq, its security, and sovereignty, and to defeat the

aggressors. He added that the Iraqi Army is a battle-experienced Arab army, which fought for eight years and emerged victorious and stronger. He pointed out that the Arab masses are conscious of the imperialist-Zionist connivance against the Arabs, and are ready to fight all forms of collusion and to defend their usurped rights.

Departs 13 Nov

JN1311142990 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 13, INA—Visiting Former Chief-of-Staff of the Egyptian Armed Forces General Sa'd-al-Din al-Shadhli tody left Baghdad concluding a four-day visit to Iraq.

General al-Shadhli was received during the visit by President Saddam Husayn and discussed with Iraqi officials developments in the Arab Gulf region.

In a statement to INA, General al-Shadhli expressed big confidence in the high combat capabilities of Iraq for defeating the Zionist-imperialist aggression.

General al-Shadhli stressed that Western and American troops should depart from the sacred Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

He affirmed that the entire Arab people stand alongside Iraq in its just battle against Zionism and imperialism and for achieving decisive victory.

Saddam Discusses Developments With 'Arafat

JN1311172390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine.

The latest developments in the situation in the Arab region, the Palestine question, and our people's intifadah in the occupied homeland were discussed during the meeting. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member; and 'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad, attended the meeting.

Saddam Meets With DFLP's 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN1211213390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 12 Nov 90?

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and PLO Executive Committee member, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed the current developments in the region. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the Palestinian people everywhere, especially in the occupied Palestinian territories, hold President Saddam Husayn in high esteem, love him sincerely, and highly value his unwavering belief that the battle fought by Iraq against the U.S. aggression is a battle for Palestine and the Arab nation. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh reasserted the pledge to stand in one trench with Iraq against the U.S. aggression and to defeat it.

President Saddam Husayn highly valued the stands of the heroic Palestinian people, especially the people of the valiant intifadah. He also hailed the bridge of support and backing for Iraq which they established despite the difficult circumstances through Gaza and Jerusalem to Baghdad.

The president added: The current stage is that of the nation's awakening and the upholding of its noble values. The outcome of the battle against aggression will be only victory, God willing.

His excellency said: We are well aware through the backgrounds we recall that this battle is the battle of Palestine; it is also the battle of liberating the Arabs from within; and the battle for full freedom of the nation, establishment of itself, and expression of its true civilized reality.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Jasim Receives Jordanian Information Minister

JN1311173390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, today received Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, who arrived in Baghdad this evening to take part in a meeting in Baghdad tomorrow, Wednesday, that will include a number of Arab information ministers.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, praised the true and courageous pan-Arab stance of the Jordanian Arab people and their sincere solidarity with Iraq as it confronts the fierce imperialist onslaught. The minister reviewed the historic facts behind the Iraqi identity of Kuwait. He referred to Britain's role in severing this part of Iraq and setting up the corrupt family of Kuwait's Croesus as its rulers.

He also pointed to the conspiratorial role played by the former Kuwaiti rulers against Iraq and its valiant people, and their attempts to weaken its civilized achievements and halt its development and progress.

During the meeting, they discussed the development of events in the Arabian Gulf following the U.S. invasion of Arab lands, and the role of Arab media in this phase which the Arab nation is going through. The meeting was attended by the director general of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the general director of the Information Ministry, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Romanian Ministry Official Arrives in Baghdad

JN0911144790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Nov (INA)—Mr. Dan Christolou Vianou [name as received], Romanian Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works, Transportation, and Territorial Planning, arrived in Baghdad today heading a delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

The Romanian official said in a statement to the IRAQI NEWS SERVICE that he will meet with Iraqi officials during his visit to discuss the development of events in the Arabian Gulf region, in addition to discussing bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

Castro Envoy Fernandez Leaves Baghdad 10 Nov

JN1011103590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Jose Ramon Fernandez, envoy of Cuban President Fidel Castro, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, and member of the Cuban Communist Party Politburo, left Baghdad this morning. The Cuban envoy handed President Saddam Husayn a written message from the Cuban president.

Ramadan Leaves for Morocco; Comments on Summit

JN1311093590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, has left Baghdad for Morocco.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he was carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The message deals with the dangers facing the Arab nation as a result of the great conspiracy represented by the presence of the U.S.-Atlantic ground, sea, and air forces in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to commit aggression against the Arab nation, headed by Iraq.

The first deputy prime minister added that the Arab nation is passing through a crucial phase; it will either be a great nation with a standing and status in the world akin to that of the big powers, or it will remain deprived of willpower, decisionmaking, land, and resources. He stated that a golden opportunity has come for the Arabs to tell the occupying aggressors: Leave our holy land and go back home peacefully before you return defeated and full of remorse.

On Iraq's position on calls for Arab summits, the first deputy prime minister explained that Iraq proved its pan-Arab orientation through various pan-Arab stands and that it supports all serious Arab action at any level to serve the Arab nation and consolidate its strength and awakening. He noted that Arab summits should be at the level of the nation's destiny and the Arab masses' aspirations. He said that Arab summits should not be a grouping to conspire against the nation as was the case with the conspiratorial Cairo summit, whose U.S. resolutions were produced by agent Husni and traitor Fahd.

Ramadan pointed out that Arab summits are not meant to translate ready-made resolutions that have been prepared by the Zionist U.S. Pentagon, but to decide on an agenda through prior consultations and careful study so that it covers all Arab causes, foremost being the Palestine cause.

The first deputy prime minister said that the pan-Arab responsibility the Arab leaders assume behooves them to thoroughly discuss all Arab issues far from foreign pressures and in a manner that serves their interconnected causes and not select the topics and the resolutions that Arab summits should discuss as the Arabs' enemies want it.

Taha Yasin Ramadan explained that the Arab masses, from the eastern part of the Arab homeland to its western part, distinguish between the resolutions that fulfill their interests and ready-made conspiratorial resolutions. He pointed out that the good Arab leader is the one who courageously defends the Arab nation's causes and not the one who defends rulers who have personal interests and who are thieves and conspirators, and who collude with the United States and Zionism at the expense of the sons of the Arab nation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan concluded his statement by declaring that Iraq is a major party in all the issues Arab summits discuss. Consultations must be held with Iraq prior to the convocation of any summit; the place and the circumstance in which leader President Saddam Husayn can attend and take part in such summits must also be taken into consideration. Otherwise, the Arab masses will accuse any summit of being a cover to conspire against the Arab nation, particularly against Iraq and Palestine.

Returns From Morocco

JN1411112390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Revolution Command Council member, and first deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad today following a two-day visit to Morocco.

During the visit, Taha Yasin Ramadan delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco on the developments in the Arab arena and the requirements for undertaking joint, serious Arab action that would satisfy the ambitions of the Arab masses and liberate Arab countries from all manifestations of imperialist-Zionist occupation and domination.

Opposition Group on Saddam's Attempted 'Bribe'

NC1111144190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 11 Nov (MENA)—The National Committees for the Salvation of Iraq disclosed today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in the past few days tried to bribe some East European countries by offering to supply them with Iraqi oil at cheap prices in return for their supplying Iraq with weapons and foodstuffs.

In a statement issued today, the National Committees for the Salvation of Iraq noted that Hungary, which refused the Iraqi offer, was one of the countries that Saddam Husayn tried to bribe. The statement added that the Iraqi scheme involved the transfer of weapons and food supplies from Hungary to Iraqi-owned companies in Cyprus and Jordan. In return, Hungary would receive Yemeni oil on behalf of Iraq.

The statement called on the ruling regimes in both Yemen and Jordan to stand beside and not against the Iraqi people in order to get rid of the tyrant. The statement emphasized that any support for the Iraqi regime will come at the expense of the Iraqi people.

Violations Said Aimed at Testing Air Defenses

JN0911150590 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Commenting on the statement made by the Foreign Ministry spokesman the day before yesterday, the scientific editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH has written the following:

1. At 1130 yesterday, 3 November 1990, an enemy target consisting of two aircraft violated our borders at an altitude of 11 km and at a speed of 720 km per hour.

2. At 1132 on the same day, another target, defined by the official spokesman as a TR-1 aircraft, violated our airspace at an altitude of 17-20 km.

3. As the first two aircraft that violated our airspace might not be U.S. planes, available evidence and information indicate that the TR-1 aircraft belongs to the U.S. Air Force. According to most specialized sources, the Americans have not supplied any of their allies with that aircraft.

4. The TR-1 aircraft is designed for tactical reconnaissance and counter-electronic warfare. The aircraft was manufactured by the Lockheed Company in 1979 based on the notorious U-2 spy aircraft.

5. The violation of Iraqi airspace by the TR-1 aircraft only two minutes after the first air target violated our airspace indicates that the mission of the spy aircraft was to test the Iraqi forces' reaction to the hostile violations by monitoring and locating the Iraqi radar and missile systems and the nature of their work, especially since the altitude at which the first target flew, 11 km, was appropriate for monitoring the work of the missile systems and that the speed of 720 km per hour is not a speed at which serious air operations are carried out. Therefore, the aim of the first target was to attract the attention of the Iraqi air defenses so the second target could carry out its spy mission.

6. Many spy and electronic warfare aircraft have been downed, because they are relatively slow compared with warplanes in general and missiles in particular and because they are not armed. On 1 May 1960, the Soviets downed a U-2B over Sverdlovsk and a U-2 aircraft over China and Korea.

U.S. Trying To 'Isolate' Egypt From Arab Nation

JN1111132590 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 11, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily of Baghdad shed light on real goals of Washington's decision by writing off 7 billion dollars in debts of Egypt and its call for holding an international conference to cancel 50 billion dollars in debts of Egypt.

The paper said that the American strategists followed a plan to isolate Egypt from the Arab nation. The paper confirmed that among other means in that plan is to strengthen position of the ruling regime and save it from its thorny problems. The paper gave prominence to deep concern of the Egyptian economists because of total confusion that sweeps all economic sectors.

Paper Urges Japan To Adopt 'Independent' Policy

JN1111134090 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 11, INA—AL-QADISIYAH daily, organ of the Ministry of Defence, confirmed that the United States' policy towards Japan was aimed at preventing Japan from playing its role as a major political and economic power.

In an analysis published today, the daily said that the current international system, which came under pure American domain after the Soviet role had diminished, could mean that Japan's emergence as a major power would inevitably become an unavoidable fact.

The daily stressed that to attain the super power status, Japan should adopt independent stances marked by full understanding in accordance with its policy in international dealing, confirming that any mistake this policy might commit could affect Japan's independent attitude, the matter that would necessarily require a firm policy compatible with Japan's interests in the Gulf.

Out of full awareness of these facts, the paper urged the Japanese Government to deal with the Gulf crisis within a national and independent view, taking into consideration the Arab-Japanese deep-rooted relations, bilateral economic and trade interests and Japan's growing need for Gulf oil, which could be estimated at 70 percent of its

total consumption. It underlined the fact that the Japanese economic future hinges on the Gulf.

The paper warned that any involvement in a military aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation could overshadow the future of the Arab-Japanese relations. It described the measures taken under U.S. pressure to make amendments to the Japanese Constitution in a manner that would allow the dispatch of Japanese forces to the Gulf as an attempt to sabotage Japan's links with the Arabs, pointing out that the Japanese opposition was well aware of this fact.

Levi Denies Preemptive Strike Planned

TA1311120990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has categorically denied THE WASHINGTON POST report that Israel would launch a preemptive strike against Iraq if the United States persisted in its refusal to supply Israel with real-time satellite intelligence. The foreign minister told diplomatic reporters a short while ago that is not the policy of the Israeli Government. Jack Katzenell reports:

Reports of the kind which appeared in THE WASHINGTON POST are not only unhelpful, Foreign Minister Levi said; they are harmful. He said he could not understand the motives behind the report alleging that Israel would launch a preemptive strike if the United States persists in its refusal to supply real-time satellite pictures on developments in Iraq. That is not the policy of the Israeli Government, Levi stressed. The foreign minister said that Israel's recent disagreements with the United States had been inflated out of all proportion. Close cooperation is going on in a wide range of issues—not least, the increased military aid package and other American concessions with far-reaching economic implications for Israel.

Turning to the agreement with the United States on the conditions for dispatching the United Nations emissary to Israel, David Levi said he had reason to believe that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar would accept the Israeli-American proposal, and if the secretary general agreed, then the other main elements in the Security Council—an apparent reference to the five permanent members—would almost certainly go along with it too. But even if Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council did not agree, Israel had nothing to lose, Levi said. After all, Jerusalem had already rejected Security Council Resolutions 672 and 673 in any case; and if the Council still insisted on sending a delegation under those terms, at least Israel's refusal to receive it would now be backed by Washington.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 13 November adds that Foreign Minister Levi stressed that "the UN emissary, if and when he arrives, will receive answers to any questions he may ask, but we will decide which issues will be discussed."]

The foreign minister rejected the view that the Gulf crisis has reduced Israel's value in American eyes. Quite the contrary he said, it has brought home to the United States that Israel is its most reliable and valuable ally. And the Gulf crisis had presented Israel with a golden opportunity to promote its own peace initiative, Levi added, because now the United States understands that the Palestinian issue cannot be addressed unless steps are taken at the same time—not afterwards—to end the state of war between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries.

Labor Party 'Welcomes' Decision on UN Envoy

TA1211172790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] The Labor Party welcomes the government's decision. Welcome to the Labor Party's position on receiving the UN secretary general's envoy, Labor Party Secretary General Mikha Harish wrote in a cable he sent to the prime minister. He added: It is only a pity that you caused so much damage to Israel's interests in the long weeks of obstinacy, hesitation, and bungling. Harish suggested that Shamir join the Labor Party's position in other spheres as well, before further damage is done.

UN Ambassador Meets, Extends Invitation to Aime

TA1411060190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yoram Aridor, has met with UN envoy Jean-Claude Aime in New York. In the very brief meeting, Aridor extended to Aime an official invitation to visit Israel. Aime said the matter of his visit would be taken up by the UN secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The UN secretary general will make a decision today on whether to send his personal envoy, Jean-Claude Aime, to investigate the situation in the territories. Perez de Cuellar today returns to New York from Tokyo, where the Israeli proposal was conveyed to him by President Hayim Herzog.

The secretary general's spokesman, Francois (Giuliani), told reporter Gid'on Remez that Perez de Cuellar wants to consult with members of the Security Council before deciding on the matter. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Fears U.S. May Support UN Meeting

TA0811143790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Text] So far, the United States has not commented on the PLO-inspired proposal to send a UN observer force to the administered territories, a proposal that Israel has already rejected. The fear in Jerusalem is that the United States might be tempted to support, for example, the Perez de Cuellar proposal for a meeting of the signatories to the Geneva Convention. Not that the United States is enthusiastic about the idea: Nobody knows who would attend the Geneva meeting, because it would be totally unprecedented. But, it would offer a way of getting the Palestinian issue out of the Security Council, something that the United States is very anxious to achieve, because it is anxious to get on with a new resolution on the Gulf crisis authorizing military action.

Observers in Jerusalem say a great deal depends on how smart the nonaligned group representing the PLO is. If it submits a resolution on the Temple Mount events which

is totally unacceptable to Washington, the United States will veto it. But, if it is something harmful to Israel but which the United States can live with, then Washington may just be tempted to go along with it.

Part of Jerusalem's concern lies in the fact that relations between President Bush and Prime Minister Shamir are not of the best in the wake of Shamir's brusque rejection of the President's letter two weeks ago. On the other hand, the U.S. Congress has approved a military aid package for Israel which is significantly better than in previous years; this, on the background of the Gulf crisis. This, in Israeli eyes, goes a long way to balancing the problems in Israel-U.S. relations on the diplomatic level.

[In a related report by the political correspondent and Miryam Fuchs on page 2, Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 8 November adds: "In internal discussions, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu proposed to adopt a more militant [previous word in English] line vis-a-vis the UN secretary general's initiative. He warned that a meeting of the Geneva Convention signatories is liable to lead to far-reaching anti-Israeli resolutions that will force the Security Council to endorse practical steps, such as the dispatch of observers to the territories, against Israel. According to Netanyahu, the PLO initiative demanding that the Security Council decide on the dispatch of observers to the territories, was designed solely to secure a compromise based on the UN secretary general's proposal. Therefore, he does not believe Israel should settle for the U.S. promise to veto the PLO-instigated proposal, because the latter is designed merely to lead the United States to supporting the secretary general's proposal for a meeting in Geneva of countries which had cosigned the Geneva Convention."]

Officials Consider Increased U.S. Aid

TA1311160190 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by army affairs correspondent On Levi]

[Text] The scope of U.S. aid to be extended to Israel in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis is estimated at approximately $2 billion. This comes in addition to the $1.8 billion defense aid package. Sources in the defense establishment have expressed great satisfaction with the U.S. Administration's decision not to include the three systems Israel had been promised inside the framework of the special aid package, which was endorsed in the wake of the Gulf crisis. The sources attributed the success in receiving such great assistance to the talks held by Defense Minister Moshe Arens in the United States last September.

Major General [reserves] David 'Ivri, the director general of the Defense Ministry, returned from the United States on 11 November and told the defense minister that during his talks with U.S. Administration officials he learned that Congress' decision to allow Israel to make use of U.S. military equipment worth $700 million does not include the three components that were already previously authorized, and that the former constitutes a separate allocation.

The package consists of 12 F-15's, 10 Sikorsky CH-53 transport helicopters (Yas'ur), and two Patriot missile batteries. These three systems are valued at approximately $500 million. Approximately $200 million is earmarked for purchasing U.S. Army surplus; $200 million for increasing the quantity of U.S. military equipment stationed in Israel, which will include ammunition and spare parts; and $42 million has been authorized in order to increase the development budget of the Arrow antimissile missile. Israel will turn a profit of about $70 million as a result of the decision to deliver all the assistance in a one-time grant at the beginning of the year. It was also decided to allocate $300 million in strategic oil reserves for Israel.

Link Between Guarantees, Aime Reception Denied

TA1411113790 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Nov 90 p 3

[Report by Yo'el Esteron from Washington, Ilan Kfir, and AP]

[Excerpts] U.S. and Israeli sources in Washington yesterday denied a report that was spread yesterday in Jerusalem, according to which the U.S. Administration had promised Israel $1 billion worth of loan guarantees, in return for Israel's agreement to receive an emissary on behalf of the UN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Ruth Yaron, the Israeli Embassy's spokeswoman, and other diplomats at the embassy asserted that the report was not true.

Nevertheless, sources in Jerusalem yesterday claimed that a resolution of the crisis surrounding the Temple Mount incident would lead to a positive change in U.S. policy toward Israel, which would also reflect on the guarantees for the loans to facilitate immigrant absorption. The sources claimed that U.S. officials had made it clear that as long as the tension prevailed, there would be no chance that the United States would issue the guarantees.

The Israeli sources stressed that the U.S. willingness to favorably discuss the loan guarantee requests is not part of a diplomatic package deal in which Israel would accept UN emissary Jean-Claude Aime. They claimed that Israel had not officially requested such aid as part of the diplomatic deal. [passage omitted]

Herzog Meets Von Weizsaecker, Invites Iliescu

TA1111124890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] President Hayim Herzog conferred with German President Richard von Weizsaecker in Japan this afternoon. Before that Mr. Herzog held a get-acquainted meeting with Romanian President Ion Iliescu and invited him to visit Israel. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem will coordinate the date of the visit with the Foreign Ministry in Bucharest. President Herzog is to confer with Vice President Dan Quayle and

with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar tomorrow. Mr. Herzog came to Tokyo to participate in the coronation of Emperor Akihito.

Herzog, Quayle Discuss U.S. Attitude in UN

TA1211055390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Report from Tokyo by 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] President Hayim Herzog conferred with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle prior to the coronation ceremony of Japan's Emperor Akihito.

[Begin Herzog recording] Naturally they are very, very interested in putting aside all our differences of opinion and to focus world attention solely on the Gulf. I had a lot to say in this matter, particularly regarding the general attitude toward us at the United Nations in the context of other world events. I minced no words in this regard, and it seems to me that there are many Americans who understand now that we, too, have a good case. [end recording]

President Herzog said that, although clearly all decisions are in the hand of one person in the United States, namely the President, it is good to know that Israel has a very loyal friend at the White House in the form of Vice President Dan Quayle.

Official Explains Ban on Arabs From Territories

TA1111120790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Telephone interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Arye Gus—live]

[Text] [Gus] Mr. Goren, in view of the past month's security-related events, the Civil Administration plans to impose limits on the entry into Israel of residents of the territories. How many people are involved?

[Goren] We are talking about more than 10,000. These figures include people in various categories; specifically, individuals with security or criminal records. In other words, this action will apply to people who, according to the security elements and the police, constitute a potential threat. Those people will be barred from Israel.

[Gus] Have the latest events affected the general state of affairs in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip—especially in the latter?

[Goren] Certainly. We witnessed a relatively large number of strike days and curfews. That had an impact on the locals, mainly in conducting their daily affairs.

[Gus] What about the dismissals of Arab employees who had held jobs in Israel?

[Goren] We are beginning to notice signs indicating the possible beginning of a process in which more and more laborers from the territories who come to Israel are having difficulties returning to their previous jobs and are seeking alternatives.

[Gus] Might this, together with the tough situation in the Gulf and the termination of the flow of funds from those countries, not lead to an economic catastrophe in Judaea and Samaria?

[Goren] I would not like to use such harsh terms, but definitely their dependence on Israel—economic and otherwise—is rather extensive, and if we impose limitations on a large group, their predicament may certainly be very rough.

[Gus] Mr. Goren, do you think the organizations in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have reached a decision on the shift to the use of firearms?

[Goren] I can only cite their pamphlets, and in them they talk openly about an escalation and explicitly mention attacks against Jews. Things are very clear, and at least in this matter they can be believed.

[Gus] Does all this not require a fundamental change in the Civil Administration's activities and modus operandi?

[Goren] We adapt our work patterns to the changing circumstances. At this stage, we are constantly experiencing change. I do not think there is any applicable measure that we have not tried. If you have some suggestions, I will be happy to hear them.

[Gus] Is the dialogue continuing?

[Goren] Definitely. The dialogue has not ceased for even one day, and it involves all the echelons, beginning with the lowest level in the Civil Administration, all the way up to the defense minister. His meetings also continue, although there was a very brief pause due to his health problems. The moment he recovered, he at once resumed his meetings. We attach great importance to those meetings and the dialogue.

Further Arabs Banned

TA1211102990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Nov 90 p 8

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[Excerpt] Security authorities have decided to bar 2,400 more West Bank Palestinians from entering Israel. They also said the intifada has turned more violent and its focus seems to have shifted from the administered areas to Jerusalem.

The number of restricted Gazans will remain at 5,000, Shmu'el Goren, the government coordinator in the territories, told a press briefing yesterday.

The total number of restricted West Bankers will rise from 3,400 to about 5,800. About 110,000 Palestinians are now working in Israel. [passage omitted]

Second Group Claims Stabbings, Shooting

NC1311133890 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Nov 13 (AFP)—Two groups, an Islamic extremist movement and an organization calling itself Fatah-'Umar al-Mukhtar, on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the stabbing in Jerusalem of two Israeli border soldiers. An anonymous caller to AFP here said the previously unknown Fatah-'Umar al-Mukhtar was responsible for the attack on the border guards in the Old City of Jerusalam.

The principal component of the Palestine Liberation Organization is known as Fatah. Israeli police reported earlier that a young Palestinian stabbed and slightly injured two border guards before fleeing through the narrow alleys of the Old City.

The caller also claimed responsibility for shots fired at an Israeli soldier on the West Bank Sunday and the stabbing of a police officer in east Jerusalem the previous day. In Amman earlier an Islamic group, Jihad Islami al-Aqsa Battalion, said it had carried out Tuesday's assault. [passage omitted]

Arabs Placed Under 'Administrative Detention'

TA1311182590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Administrative detentions in the territories: The defense minister has approved the six-month detention of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash from Ramallah, the chairman of the Arab Journalists Association, and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad from al-'Ayzariyah, the editor of the Hebrew-language Palestinian paper GESHER. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the detentions were made today by virtue of an order signed by the commander of the Central Command.

In Gaza, Dr. Ahmad al-Yazchi was placed under administrative detention. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Dr. al-Yazchi is a senior Fatah leader in the territories and a member of the Arab Medical Association.

The defense minister's media adviser has said that the detention of Abu-Zayyad and Abu-'Ayyash demonstrates Israel's determination not to allow instigation to terrorism and violence. He explained that the two are senior Fatah activists in Judaea and Samaria, and that they also hold high positions in the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, he said, directed Fatah's strike committees and coordinated the activities of terrorist organizations in Judaea and Samaria.

Comments on 'Detention'

TA1311195990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni said this evening, in reaction to the administrative detentions, that it has again been proved that the occupying force is trying, through oppressive measures, to break the Palestinian people's spirit, yet this will again fail.

AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah said that the detentions limit the freedom of expression and impede the journalists who are discharging their duties. He believes this will only add to the tension and the problems, which are complex anyway.

The Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy have also sharply criticized the detentions. They maintain that the move is the Black Sabbath [reference to the 29 February 1946 British sweep of the Jewish settlement in Palestine, which protested the White Paper limitations on Jewish immigration] of the Palestinian leadership and demonstrates the rightist government's loss of control.

Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Beilin from the Alignment says that the detentions indicate the horrible weakness of the government, which has lost its cool and is incapable of facing up to its most important political challenge.

MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni of Tehiya, on the other hand, says that these detentions are too little, too late. He says that to quell the intifadah it is necessary to expel 5,000 organizers, instigators, and perpetrators of attacks, as well as to detain Faysal al-Husayni.

Soldier Fired On; Islamic Jihad Squad Caught

TA1211054490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Searches continue in the Ramallah area for passengers in a car who shot at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier near Bet El last night. The soldier was slightly injured. The security forces are examining the possibility that the passengers were trying to kidnap the soldier. At the same time, our correspondent points out that the possibility that this was a stray bullet is also being looked into.

A commander in the area, Lieutenant Colonel Nisim, has told our correspondent that the soldier was shot while inspecting the vehicle at a roadblock. [passage omitted]

The security forces in the Gaza Strip have captured a squad that belonged to the Islamic Jihad and which was responsible for the planting of bombs in Israel and the Strip. Last night the security forces demolished the home of the squad's commander, Ibrahim al-Musabah, from the village of 'Abasan. The security forces also sealed the home of Riyadh al-A'ja from Khan Yunus who belonged to Fatah.

Paper Calls For 'New Political Initiative'

TA1311202190 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 12 Nov 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Violence...and the Lost Opportunities!"]

[Text] All those following the news in the occupied territories feel that the situation is deteriorating and

getting more complicated daily. Violence and counterviolence are a translation of the feeling that the old concepts adhered to by Israel are no longer pragmatic. The atmosphere indicates that unless a fundamental change takes place, the Israeli-Palestinian relationship is on its way to collapse.

The Palestinian and Israeli peoples have wasted many opportunities for reaching a settlement between them, but lack of trust, as well as the suspicions by each side about what the other is scheming, prevent any sort of progress in the peace process. During the first 20 years of occupation, Israel succeeded in maintaining the status quo, but after three years of intifadah it found out that change was inevitable. The previous situation was no longer appropriate. Israel discovered that it had to seek another alternative.

While the Palestinian people have abandoned their old dreams, Israel still clings to the Zionist dreams, which from the pragmatic viewpoint will never see the light of day. On the contrary, the situation is getting worse for everyone. What makes it difficult for the Israeli people to put forward a political initiative is lack of a consensus within Israeli society over a specific settlement with the Palestinian people.

We are not saying this in order to shut the door to a settlement, but to stress to the Israelis the need to arrange their cards and emerge from this impasse from which the two peoples are suffering. The Israeli right-wing, center, and left-wing should agree on a formula that has the consensus of key political elements inside Israel. Israel launched a step when Shamir's initiative was put forward in May of last year. All of us are aware how Shamir backed down from his own initiative after Egypt added certain clarifications to this initiative so that it would be acceptable to the Palestinians. After that, Baker put forward his five points with the aim of implementing the initiative. Despite our reservations over this initiative, in principle an opportunity was presented for emerging from the deadlock in Palestinian-Israeli relations. The most important thing about the initiative was that Israel acknowledged that it would negotiate with the Palestinians about their future and about mutual recognition between the Palestinians and their leadership and Israel, represented by its government.

The time has come for Israel to put forward a new political initiative. The current overcast skies offer the best opportunity for launching a move. There is a consensus inside Israel about one thing, as proved by public opinion polls. Namely, withdrawal from the occupied territories and an application of autonomy. The Palestinian people and their leadership agree to this initiative, provided it is for a limited interim period, followed by the right to self-determination.

This plan is not a figment of the imagination, but the best way out of the impasse from which all of us are suffering and which should lead to a settlement in a bid to prevent the continuation of bloodshed, the cycles of violence, and the daily victims.

The senseless Israeli notion that this initiative cannot be put forward unless the intifadah is ended aims at evading the fait accompli, contributes to escalating the confrontations, and deprives us of any hope of focusing our attention on useful and beneficial matters.

Perhaps there are some Israeli leaders who believe that time is on their side and that in time all problems will be solved, but the contrary is true. The Palestinian problem has lasted over 40 years and has only become more complicated. On the Palestinian side, the PLO has made all the concessions, accepted the international resolutions, and announced a formula for establishing a confederation with Jordan. All these factors create a solid basis and require Israel, if it really seeks peace, to act and meet the Palestinian people half-way.

New Police Regulations Issued in East Jerusalem

TA1111065190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] The police patrolling East Jerusalem will from now on conduct themselves like the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the territories. They are drawing lessons from the stabbing of the policeman near Damascus Gate yesterday. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that it was decided that from now on every patrol will include at least three policemen, that the foot patrols will henceforth proceed in military formation under security protection, and that the men will be obligated to wear flak jackets in East Jerusalem.

Shamir's Office Revokes Ban on Travel to Egypt

TA1011164190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister's adviser on countering terrorism has revoked the instruction issued about two months ago recommending that Israelis abstain from travel to Egypt. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the decision to revoke the recommendation came as a result of the comprehensive measures taken by Egypt toward preventing terrorist attacks inside the country. Adviser Yig'al Karmon stressed, however, that the recommendation will be renewed if necessary.

Three Jordanians Detained for Infiltration

TA1211203990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] About three weeks ago, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol detained three youths who had infiltrated from Jordan through the border fence north of Jericho. The youths, about 15 years old, were detained near the border fence. At first they said they were on their way to Jordan, but later confessed they had entered Israel in order to hurt Jews because of the Temple Mount incident. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the three were not equipped with any weapons.

Shomron Analyzes Security on Jordan Border

TA1411113090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Israelis who are unhappy with King Husayn do not realize that he is the lesser evil. If Husayn were to disappear, they would be a lot unhappier when they found themselves with Saddam Husayn in his place, Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron said yesterday.

Briefing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shomron said the recent increase in incidents along the Jordanian border show that the central authority in Amman has been weakened.

"The king is riding a tiger," he said.

Moslem extremists form the majority in the Jordanian parliament, Shomron said. The king, however, does not command sufficient backing to be able to dissolve the parliament. The king's weakness has a negative effect on the administrative authority wielded by the regime, as well as on the security situation, he said.

The new situation requires the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to make arrangements to provide greater protection for the Jordan Valley settlements, Shomron said.

[Writing on page 1 of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Bradley Burston reports that "a high-level re-evaluation of the IDF's Jordan border defenses may follow yesterday morning's attack which left an IDF soldier dead at a Jordan River army outpost, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

["The review is likely to examine possible additions to the network of outposts and patrols on which the current defense line is based. Also to be studied are the training and deployment of reserve soldiers, and the quality of the troops now manning the line—in light of the faltering Jordanian surveillance and the death of two IDF reservists in clashes with infiltrators in the space of six days."]

In the discussion which followed, Deputy Science Minister Ge'ula Kohen (Tehiya) said that if the king was incapable of creating a security zone along his border with Israel to prevent infiltration, Israel ought to create that zone in his place.

She said that since the Jordan Valley settlements require the assistance of the IDF in the same way as those along the border with Lebanon, this proves that the IDF should carry out a more vigorous policy if the PLO is to be kept at bay.

Committee chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar (Likud) rejected Kohen's suggestion, pointing out that the security zone which Israel tried to create inside Jordan two decades ago had been of no avail, and did not help the king.

Ben-Elisar advised her against drawing a parallel between Lebanon and Jordan, pointing out that Jordan has a ruler and a government, while Lebanon has neither. Jordan, unlike Lebanon, has an army, and that army must be made to restore order, he said. The IDF, for its part, must beef up its patrols and defenses.

Gad Ya'aqobi (Labor) said the IDF would be "making a tragic mistake if it marched into Jordan."

Yosi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) described Kohen as "moonstruck" and said: "There are too many pyromaniacs running around, who instead of being satisfied with kindling a conflagration in the Middle East, yearn to set the entire world on fire."

Rehav'am Ze'evi (Moledet) said the continued existence of Jordan is important to Israel despite the king's alliance with Saddam Husayn. "The IDF has to stand along the river and ward off attacks from there," he said.

Military Sources Comment on Lebanese Disarmament

TA1211111990 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 90 p A4

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] "Those who believe that the withdrawal from some parts of Beirut of fighters from several militias heralds the beginning of a process that will see the various Lebanese militias disarm are simply wrong. In the final analysis, the militias in control over all the key regions and strategic points around the Lebanese capital have not left them." This was the assessment voiced late last week by senior military elements well versed in Lebanese affairs.

They maintain that the evacuation was only from the marginal areas of the Lebanese capital—not from focal centers, control over which would allow for pressure on the central regime. Thus, for instance, Walid Junblatt's Druze militia failed to evacuate the 'Alayh area, and Samir Ja'ja's militiamen have not left the Beirut port area.

These areas have great strategic value, but there is no clear indication that pressure by the central government could lead to their evacuation and their being handed over to the Lebanese Army.

As for long-term predictions, the military sources believe that the situation in which the focal points of military strength are distributed among the different militias will not change, and the latter will continue to exist and rule in the enclaves currently under their control.

The descent of Amal fighters from the Beirut area toward southern Lebanon was meant primarily to appease the Syrians. Nonetheless, once Amal's interests conflict with those of the Syrian Government, the Shiite organization's leaders will not hesitate to adopt an independent policy.

In the opinion of the military elements, no coordinated Palestinian-Shiite militia offensive on the Jazzin environs is expected. All the power centers in southern Lebanon realize very well that an attack on Jazzin in a bid to conquer it from the South Lebanese Army will be viewed as provocation which Israel will not be able to accept. Therefore, in all likelihood they will not dare initiate a wide-scale offensive against this Christian enclave.

Agudat Yisra'el Postpones Joining Coalition

TA0911073690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Agudat Yisra'el has decided to hold off joining the government by two to three weeks. The move comes even though an agreement has been reached between Agudat Yisra'el and the Likud. The Agudat Yisra'el is waiting for the Likud to bring before the Knesset legislation on the sale of pork and on indecent advertising.

New Police Appointments Made After Zamir Report

Reshuffle Dubbed 'Mini-Revolution'

TA1211072390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Nov 90 pp 1, 13

[Report by Yotam Navin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo and Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner decided on Saturday night that Commander Hayim Albaldes will become the chief of the newly established Jerusalem District, formed following the recommendations of the Zamir commission that probed the Temple Mount events.

Milo and Terner also agreed on a host of other new senior appointments. Among police ranks the reshuffle is dubbed a "mini-revolution." As part of the round of appointments, the planned retirement of Commander Hayim Comfort, the commander of the Southern District, has been advanced and no new appointment has been offered to Deputy Commander Arye Bibi, the commander of the Jerusalem Subdistrict—the two officers whose performance during the 8 October Temple Mount events was highly criticized by the Zamir commission. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 12 November reports that "Minister Roni Milo has confirmed" that Bibi "will be promoted" and that Milo "commended him" as a professional. Bibi is said to expect a promotion to commander and "will apparently be appointed head of the police Personnel Department."]

Following are the new senior police appointments:

—Commander Hayim Albaldes, formerly the commander of the Central District, was appointed commander of the Jerusalem District.

—Assistant Commander Moshe Friedman, currently the commander of the Sharon Subdistrict, will be appointed deputy commander of the Jerusalem District, and will be promoted to deputy commander.

—Deputy Commander Rafi Peled, currently the head of intelligence department in the police headquarters, will be appointed commander of the Southern District in lieu of Rahamim Comfort, who will retire. Peled will be promoted to commander. Peled's deputy will be Assistant Commander Shim'on Levi, currently the commander of the Lakhish Subdistrict, who will be promoted to deputy commander.

—Assistant Commander Avi Dotan, currently the commander of the Tel Aviv Central Unit, will be promoted to deputy commander and will serve as director of the intelligence department.

—Deputy Commander Dan Ohad, the assistant commanding officer of the Southern District, will replace Deputy Commander Yoram Gonen as the police representative in the United States.

—Chief Superintendent Ze'ev Even-Hen will be appointed commander of the Sharon Subdistrict, and Deputy Commander Moshe Kaspi, currently the assistant commanding officer of the Jerusalem Subdistrict, will be appointed commander of the Lakhish Subdistrict.

—Avi Feder, who will be promoted to assistant commander, will become the commander of the Old City, the most senior and most sensitive job in the new Jerusalem District.

—Deputy Commander Tuvya Golan, the former assistant head of the Personnel Department, will become the head of a new professional team which will be affiliated to the police affairs minister's office. The establishment of the new team was recommended by the Zamir commission. Avner Ben-David will also be a member of that team. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 12 November, in a similar report by Michael Rotem on pages 1 and 8, adds that "the new appointments take effect on January 1, 1991."]

Additional Appointments Announced

TA1311115290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Nov p 2

[Report by Michael Rotem]

[Excerpts] Additional appointments in the police high command were announced last. They continued the upper echelon shake up begun by Police Minister Roni Milo Sunday, after the Zamir Commission on the Temple Mount riot severely criticized the functioning of senior police officers.

Commander Arye Bibi former head of the Jerusalem Area—which has been upgraded to district and given a new commander—will be promoted to full commander

and appointed chief of the Personnel Department in Police National Headquarters.

Commander Shlomo Gal, the police education officer, will be promoted to full commander, and become the commander of the Civil Guard.

Assistant Commander Arye 'Amit, head of the traffic division, will be appointed assistant to the head of the Operations Department, with the rank of commander.

Assistant Commander Dani Taviv, head of the Ha'amakim Area in the Northern District, will replace 'Amit.

Assistant Commander Ya'aqov Borowski, Northern District operations officer, will replace Taviv.

The new appointments will take effect on April 1, and more are expected in the next few days. [passage omitted]

The most surprising of Milo's promotions was that of Commander Asaf Hefetz to head of the Central District. Hefetz, 48, is now chief of National Headquarters operations department. In 1984, he was almost fired for telling reporters that then inspector-general Arye Ivtzan was "an evil midget," and then police minister Yosef Burg was something unprintable. His injudicious remarks were overheard because his phone was tapped by police intelligence. He was brought before the police's disciplinary court and fined. Hefetz's new position is one usually reserved for promising officers on the way up.

Air Force Official Resigns for Trial Duration

TA1211103290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Nov 90 p 8

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] Tel Aviv—Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron has accepted Brigadier General Rami Dotan's request to be relieved of his duties as Quartermaster Corps chief until his trial is over, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources confirmed last night.

Dotan, arrested two weeks ago on suspicion of involvement in a multimillion dollar bribery and fraud scheme, was remanded for an additional 10 days yesterday by IDF Chief Prosecutor Amnon Strassnoff. Dotan has denied all charges against him and has reportedly refused to cooperate with investigators.

Dotan contends that the charges result from attempts by certain individuals to "settle accounts" with him. But investigators said yesterday that new evidence has come to light, further linking Dotan to a suspected international arms-procurement bribery case.

Dotan had written in a letter to Shomron that even if he were to be released pending trial, he would be busy working on his legal defense and unable to give his full time and attention to his job. Military circles interpreted Dotan's request as a way of facing Major General Avihu Bin-Nun—who has supported Dotan's innocence throughout the 15-month-long investigation—with the choice of having to relieve Dotan of his duties.

An interim replacement, with full authority, has already been chosen, military sources said.

Qatzav 'Encouraged' by USSR Talks on Flights

TA1111123090 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Nov 90 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] The USSR and Israel have renewed political contacts on opening a direct flight line between Ben-Gurion Airport and Moscow. This was disclosed by Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav. Qatzav reported that contacts on the subject have resumed at senior levels, including the ministerial level. He asserted that he is encouraged by the outcome of the talks and that he has no doubt the direct line will open within a reasonable period of time. In political contacts, the Soviets explained that the delay in initiating the direct flight line stems from the Temple Mount affair and the Gulf crisis. At the same time, they said they have a political and economic interest in opening the line.

Vietnam Said Seeking Economic Cooperation

TA0811074990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Nov 90 p 2

["Exclusive" report by Gid'on Kouts]

[Text] Hanoi—Vietnam is interested in economic cooperation with Israel, albeit through third countries and companies.

In an interview with THE JERUSALEM POST here, Le Danh Xuong, the senior economic adviser to the secretary-general of the Vietnamese Communist Party, said that the two countries could finesse the problem posed by an absence of diplomatic relations through such third-party arrangements.

Le Danh Xuong, one of the architects of Vietnam's shift from a command economy to a mixed economy, said that Vietnam has mineral resources and manpower and Israel has high-tech industry, and the two countries could do much together. But because of the Arab boycott, for the time being such cooperative ventures would have to be done indirectly. Vietnam, he said, is still too dependent upon Arab oil to provoke the Arab states directly.

He added that because of this dependence, Vietnam had to adopt a course of neutrality in the Gulf crisis.

The official suggested that Vietnam and Israel could institute direct tourism links.

He said that Vietnam admires Israel because of its accomplishments and its strong army.

'Arafat Arrives, Begins Official Visit 13 Nov

JN1311121890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman at noon today on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior officials. He was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, a number of senior officials, and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman.

Arrival Statement

JN1311132190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1217 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] We have just received the following statements made by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat on arriving in Amman one hour ago. President 'Arafat first answered a question on Arab efforts to settle the Gulf crisis and said:

[Begin recording] Undoubtedly, you notice this blessed Arab effort being made by His Majesty King Husayn, His Majesty King Hassan II, and other Arab leaders. We call them the Arab states supporting an Arab solution. However, this effort is not only confined to Arab states supporting an Arab solution. This effort is aimed at finding an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and the Middle East crisis under an international umbrella. International circles, whether in Europe, the Soviet Union, the PRC, Japan, the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic countries, or the African countries, adopt this principle and stress the need to find this kind of solution. His Majesty King Hassan II's call is part of this blessed effort to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and the Middle East crisis within an international framework. Undoubtedly, we will continue efforts along with our brothers to broach these issues. [end recording]

Asked about Israel's agreement to receive a UN envoy to visit the occupied territories, President 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] They want to use Aime's visit to Israel to avoid the draft resolution launched by the Arab and the nonaligned countries—a resolution that we expect will be submitted to the Security Council within a few days. In addition to this, the signatories to the Geneva Convention will discuss sanctions on Israel for its continued crimes against the Palestinian people and the Islamic and Christian sanctities in the land from which the prophet made his night journey and ascension to heaven, and the cradle of Jesus, peace be upon him.

I can also say that this is an abortive attempt by the Israelis. I hope that such an abortive attempt will not be given a U.S. or British cover.

[Unidentified reporter] What about your talks with the PRC foreign minister? Have they produced anything? Is there any common ground for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis?

['Arafat] You know that my brother, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani, was dispatched to the PRC by the Executive Committee to discuss with the PRC leadership ways to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and the Middle East crisis. The current visit to the region by the PRC foreign minister is part of these joint Arab and international efforts to find such a peaceful Arab solution with an international cover. This trend has been expressed not only by PRC leaders, but also by French and Soviet leaders during the news conference held by President Gorbachev and President Mitterrand. This was also explained in the Soviet-European statement and by French President Mitterrand, and before in the statements made by the nonaligned countries. [end recording]

Regarding his assessment of the PRC position on the Gulf crisis, President 'Arafat said:

[Begin recording] It is positive; it seeks a peaceful solution and tries to avert the danger of war, in which there will no victor. This war will be a disaster not only for the Arab countries, but also for the whole world and the world economy. [end recording]

More on Arrival Statement

JN1311213790 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Amman, 13 Nov (PETRA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman this afternoon on a visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior officials and exchange with them views on the latest regional developments, the Gulf crisis, and the efforts currently under way to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

In a statement to reporters on arrival, the Palestinian president affirmed the need to find a peaceful Arab solution with an international cover to the Gulf crisis and the Middle East conflict. In this regard, he praised the efforts being made by His Majesty King Husayn and a number of Arab leaders to create a suitable atmosphere for attaining this Arab solution. He added that these efforts proceeded on all levels, thanks to various world quarters. He went on to say that there is world agreement on the need to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

'Arafat said: The ties linking us to His Majesty King Husayn are very important ones. We are continuing our talks and contacts with the Jordanian leadership to reach an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis and also to reach an agreement on means of confronting the organized hostile Israeli escalation against the Palestinian people and the Islamic and Christian sites in the occupied Arab territories.

In reply to a question on his assessment of the UN efforts as regards handling the Palestine question in contrast with its handling of the Gulf crisis and the efforts that it has been making to tackle the crisis, 'Arafat said that the United Nations has not so far taken any real measures to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. The United

Nations has been issuing one resolution after another on the crisis. However, it has failed to produce any solution, 'Arafat added.

'Arafat went on to say: We have continued to see unlimited support by the U.S. Administration for the Israeli occupation and the Israeli crimes against our people and holy sites. The United States used the veto right seven times in a single year to protect these crimes.

On Iraq's position on the Arab summit called for by the Moroccan monarch, 'Arafat said that the brothers in Iraq seek intensified efforts to prepare for the summit to render it a success. [passage omitted]

King, 'Arafat Confer

JN1311190990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1803 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the Royal Hashemite Court today. More details in the report by our correspondent Shakir Maharimah:

[Begin Maharimah recording] During the meeting they reviewed the latest regional developments, particularly the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the Gulf crisis, and efforts currently under way on the Arab and international fronts to reach a peaceful settlement of the crisis. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the political adviser to his majesty the king, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by PLO Executive Committee members Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and 'Abdallah Hurani, [PLO ambassador to Tunisia] Hakam Bal'awi, and Palestinian ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim. [end recording]

'Arafat Departure Statement

JN1311213890 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure from Amman this evening, Yasir 'Arafat stated the following to reporters:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] I was pleased by the meeting I had with his majesty the king at noon today. We began the meeting by discussing the situation of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and their legendary steadfastness in the face of the official and organized Zionist terrorism against our people, against our children, against our women, and against our Islamic and Christian holy places. We also discussed all aspects and factors of this steadfastness, whether related to developments inside our occupied territories or to world developments. In addition, we discussed our people's economic situation. We also discussed together, as has been our habit, a peaceful Arab solution to the Gulf crisis, which is closely related to the Middle East conflict in general and to the Palestine question in particular. This was discussed against the background of this increasingly international agreement on the need for it—whether in Europe, the Soviet Union, the PRC, Japan, the nonaligned member states, and even inside the United States. Efforts are currently under way to hold an Arab summit in the wake of the good call made by His Majesty King Hassan II. It is well known that there are joint efforts undertaken by His Majesty King Hassan II, along with His Majesty King Husayn, President Chadli [Bendjedid], and some of their Arab brothers, whose countries I prefer to call the countries supporting an Arab solution. [end recording]

'Arafat was seen off by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, minister of culture; Muhammad Milhim, and 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya [PLO Executive Committee members]; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador to Jordan.

Crown Prince Hasan Leaves for Japan 8 Nov

JN0911164590 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Royal Highness Princess Tharwat left Amman this evening for Japan on an official visit to attend the coronation of Emperor Akihito. The crown prince will have talks with a number of world leaders on the Gulf crisis. His Majesty King Husayn, Her Majesty Queen Nur, members of the royal family, senior officials, and Japan's ambassador to Jordan bade them farewell.

Agreement Reported on Relations With Iran

JN1311101690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 90 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Direct contacts are continuing between the governments of Jordan and Iran and an announcement could be expected soon on the resumption of diplomatic relations between Amman and Tehran, according to informed sources.

"The two sides have reached broad agreement on most of the issues involved after contacts were launched last year at the United Nations," said a diplomatic source. "Since then, consultations have been continuing directly between the two foreign ministries," added the source." "For all practical purposes, there appears to be no major problem in the resumption of formal relations."

Other sources said the Iranian government of President Hashemi- Rafsanjani had formally presented the outcome of contacts with Jordan to the Iranian parliament. "It is only a formality in Tehran since there is no

precedent of the Majlis (parliament) rejecting any proposal which has the tacit endorsement of the president," said a source close to the Iranians. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in September that Tehran was in favour of resuming formal ties with Amman.

Jordanian Foreign Ministry officials confirmed that talks were continuing with their Iranian counterparts but declined comment on any specific aspects of the contacts; nor would the officials provide any specific timeframe for announcing the resumption of formal relations.

Diplomatic ties between the two countries were severed in the early stages of the Iran-Iraq war which began in September 1980. Since then, Pakistan has been looking after Iranian interests in Jordan. (Iran and Iraq broke formal relations towards the final stages of their eight-year war, which was brought to an end with a ceaefire in August 1988).

"After all, the reason for the break in Jordanian-Iranian relations was the war and now the war itself has ended and Baghdad and Tehran have also resumed diplomatic relations, so there is no hurdle in Tehran and Amman doing the same thing," said a diplomatic source.

Pakistani diplomats told the Jordan Times that they were not involved in the ongoing contacts between Amman and Tehran, which recently resumed direct telphone links.

Reports have indicated that Iran could sell oil to Jordan to make up for the shortfall in the Kingdom after Saudi Arabia cut off its supply, but Jordanian officials would neither confirm nor deny the report. "We are looking at all alternative sources of supply," a senior official said without referring to Iran or Algeria, another country cited as a possible supplier to Jordan.

Business circles also noted that Jordan turned to Iran for its needs of certain chemicals for its fertiliser and phosphate industry in the wake of the imposition of international sanctions against Iraq after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Israel Forms Plans To Control Al-Aqsa Mosque

JN1311111690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 90 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by 'Isam Qadamani]

[Text] Amman—The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has learnt that the Israeli occupation authorities plan to set up a Zionist committee, chaired by the chief of police, to supervise al-Aqsa Mosque affairs and to place it completely under Israeli control.

News of the plan came to the ministry in a report submitted by Rafiq al-Khatib, the ministry's director of al-Aqsa Mosque affairs, who said that the Israelis planned to take over control of the holy shrine from the Islamic Waqf Committee in Jerusalem.

The plan, as recommended by the Zamir committee which investigated the killing of 20 Palestinians near the mosque on Oct. 8, had submitted a report to the Israeli government blaming the Arabs for the bloodshed on that day.

"The Israelis are using the Oct. 8 incidents as a pretext to consolidate their control over Islamic holy places prior to taking steps to obliterate the Islamic heritage and religious places," said the report.

To carry out the plan, the report said the Israelis had increased security patrols in and around the mosque's grounds, bringing in border guards to stop any attempt by the Muslim worshippers to stage anti-israeli protests.

According to the report, special electronic equipment, installed at the entrance of the mosque, will automatically release hot water from hidden hoses on the worshippers if protest occurred.

Lawyers Offer To Defend Killer of Kakh's Kahana

JN1111081790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Nov 90 p 3

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah; "Special to JORDAN TIMES"]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) has supported a decision by the Arab Lawyers Association (ALA) to set up a committee of lawyers to defend Sayyid Nusayr, who is accused of Assassinating anti-Arab Rabbi Me'ir Kahana in New York last Wednesday.

"Members of the JBA have said they will be honoured to defend Nusayr in court and consider him as a national hero," said JBA President Walid 'Abd-al-Hadi.

"What Nusayr has done is the only reply to inhuman practices and crimes committed by Kahana's group—called Kakh—inside the occupied Arab territories," 'Abd-al-Hadi added in a statement to AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES.

Nusayr, 'Abd-al-Hadi added, has thus addressed the Zionists and the extremist groups with the only language they understand and acted to avenge Israeli killings of thousands of Arab women and children.

"Defending Nusayr in court is tantamount to self-defence and the defence of the rights of the Palestinian people, and is in reply to the atrocities being continually committed by the Israelis and the settlers against the Arab population of Palestine," 'Abd-al-Hadi said.

"There is no alternative to eradicating the roots of evil and violence in order to save the Palestinians from atrocities and crimes," added 'Abd-al-Hadi.

JBA sources said that 11 Jordanian lawyers had offered to join an Arab defence team of lawyers to defend Nusayr in American courts. These include: Sulayman al-Hadidi, Ibrahim Bakr, Faris al-Nabulsi, Husayn Mujalli, Asma Khadr, Na'im Madani, Zuhdi al-Disi,

Muhammad al-Tarawinah, Ahmad Abu-'Arqub, Minwir al-Rimawi and Ziyad al- Khasawinah.

France, Taiwan To Provide Loans, Grants

JN1311103890 Amman JORDAN TIMES In English 13 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

["Special from Paris"]

[Text] France has decided to make available 100 million French francs (about JD 15 million) in the form of soft loans and grants to help Jordan with its balance of payments in the face of the Gulf crisis.

The financial assistance represents France's contribution to Jordan as part of aid to "Middle East frontline states." The European Community has decided on 1.5 billion European currency units ($1.8 billion) to the three countries most affected by economic sanctions against Iraq, namely Jordan, Egypt and Turkey. Individual EC countries were to dispense the assistance half bilaterally and the other half through the EC budget. The latter is likely to be approved by the European Parliament in December.

The FF 100 million package is France's contribution to Jordan's balance of payments, French Foreign Ministry officials here said.

"The ratio of outright grants to soft loans is higher in Jordan's case than either Egypt's or Turkey's," a senior ministry official said. The official, however, did not disclose the exact ratio. He said France's commitment to helping Jordan remains ironclad, "despite earlier fears that the Kingdom was helping Iraq" to beat the embargo. "We are now assured that Jordan is fully meeting its obligations towards th sanctions, and we are doing all we can to support the Kingdom economically and otherwise," the official said.

"Following King Husayn's visit here, Paris has agreed to resume the shipment of spare parts to French-made equipment used by the armed forces," said another ministry official. The spare parts were held up, partly because "everything was disrupted" in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and partly because France "was not sure" Jordan was totally abiding by the U.N. resolutions against Iraq, the officials said.

After the King's talks with French Defence Minister Jean Pierre Chevenement here last week, however, the problem was settled, and there is also now the FF 100 million assistance plan, the officials added.

The officials said the French government was in the process of writing a formal letter to Jordan informing of its decision to extend the assistance.

Despite expressions of keen interest in extending support for Jordan, the officials were non-committal on pending issues related to rescheduling Jordan's debts to the Paris Club of creditor governments. France is Jordan's major European creditor.

The officials reaffirmed that President Francois Mitterrand had not promised to write off Egypt's debts to France as was reported after his visit to Cairo earlier this month. The president had only promised to study an Egyptian request in this regard, they said. "So any consideration of Jordan's debts would have to be made in line with other countries (Egypt, Morocco etc,) that owe debt to France," one of the officials explained.

Paris Club representatives are meeting in the French capital this week, and the issue of debts of Jordan as well as Egypt among other countries are expected to be discussed.

Jordan's ambassador to France, Mr. 'Awwad al-Khalidi, praised the French assistance as a "good gesture" towards Jordan's. He said "His Majesty's visit to France (last week) was successful and fruitful."

Meanwhile, it was announced in Amman Monday that Jordan will receive assistance from Taiwan before the end of this week. According to informed sources, a cheque for $10 million in cash will be offered as a grant of which $5 million will be allocated for the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the rest to the treasury. The sources said an additional $7 million will later be forthcoming.

Consultations Begin on Sanctions Verification

JN1111103190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff writer P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Consultations have started between the United Nations officials and the Jordanian government on ways and means to observe and verify Jordan's compliance with the Security Council-imposed trade sanctions against Iraq, senior officials said Saturday.

The discussions come in line with instructions received from the U.N. Sanctions Committee, said the resident representative of the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), Dr. Ali 'Attiqah.

"I have been asked to consult with the Jordanian government on how best to observe the Kingdom's adherence to the sanctions," Dr. 'Attiqah told the Jordan Times, "It is really up to the Jordanian government to tell us how they want it done," he added pointing out that it was in response to a Jordanian request that the Sanctions Committee decided to approve U.N. inspectors to see it for themselves that the Kingdom was complying with Security Council Resolution 661, which imposed an international trade embargo against Iraq following the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

Dr. 'Attiqah, who said he was dealing with the Foreign Ministry, denied that he was named as coordinator in charge of the effort as reported by international agencies. "My job is only to consult the Jordanian government and convey its views to the U.N.," he said. The UNDP

office or staff will not be involved in the actual inspection process other than advising the U.N. on the Jordanian perception of the process, he added.

Mamduh Abu-Hassan, president of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, welcomed the U.N. move. "They can see it for themselves now that Jordan is complying with the sanctions against Iraq," he told the Jordan Times.

According to Western diplomats, Jordan's adherence to Resolution 661 is a de facto precondition for international assistance to the Kingdom to compensate for its losses resulting from the Gulf crisis and the sanctions. Jordan has repeatedly said that it is enforcing the sanctions except for its purchase of oil from Iraq as settlement of Baghdad's debts to Amman; but there has been little movement towards actual delivery of international assistance to Jordan under Article 50 of the U.N. Charter. Article 50 calls for compensation for countries facing "special economic problems arising" from the implementation of Security Council resolutions, which are mandatory.

"We are losing confidence in the international pledges and promises," Abu-Hassan said. "We hope that the verification of our compliance with the sanctions will spur the international community to extend assistance to Jordan," he added.

At the same time, he said, "what is affecting us more is the blockade at the Red Sea which is depriving us of much-needed raw materials and spare parts for our industries."

Abu-Hassan said Jordan had also made contacts with the United Nations to post observers in the Red Sea to check the actions of the American-led "enforcers" of the international sea blockade against Iraq. There have been many reports of arbitrary actions by the American warships patrolling the Red Sea, including the diversion of ships carrying exclusively Jordan-bound cargo and raw materials. However, the U.S. State Department says it recognises that the embargo applies only to cargo destined for Iraq and that nothing would be done to hamper Jordan's imports and exports.

According to the head of the U.N. Sanctions Committee, Marjatta Rasi of Finland, the inspection at Jordan's border with Iraq will be mostly "spot checks" of vehicles. She said Thursday that U.N. staff already stationed in Amman rather than specially assigned officials, would be carrying out the job so that the cost of the operations would be kept down.

The Jordanian request for U.N. inspectors was made last month after allegations were made in the Western media that the Kingdom was not adhering to the sanctions despite confirmations to the contrary by the State Department and several independent observers.

Sources in Amman said American diplomats who were posted at the al-Ruwayshid post to monitor the traffic across the border were recalled late last month, shortly after the State Department formally announced that Jordan was complying with the sanctions. (But it was not clear whether the recall was related to Washington's conviction that Jordan was abiding by the embargo or related to concerns of personal safety of the diplomats at the border post as reported by some American newspapers).

U.S. diplomats argue the American presence at the border post was not solely aimed at keeping a watch on traffic across the border. "They were there also to help American nationals coming across the border," said an American source.

"It was no secret that Jordan was not exactly very happy with the American presence at the border post," commented a senior official. "We are part of the U.N. system and we believe that the U.N. itself should verify our compliance with its resolutions," he added.

Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and other senior officials as well as security sources have said that Jordan had stepped up border patrols to stop the smuggling of goods to Iraq, and several international officials have confirmed that despite the difficulties involved in monitoring the long border with Iraq, Jordan has been exerting maximum efforts to ensure that the sanctions are not violated.

Diplomats noted that Jordan was the only country which requested U.N. inspection of its adherence to the sanctions resolution.

What remained unclear Saturday was what parameters Jordan was applying to food and medicine destined for Iraq after ordering a total end to all such shipments in mid-October. An informed source said "a few consignments of most essential medicine" had been permitted but could not say whether the shipments were actually sent across the border.

Officials noted that there had been several instances of international supply of food and medicine to Iraq. He pointed out that France had sent a planeload of medicine to Iraq in an aircraft which carried French nationals from Baghdad to Paris. Switzerland had sent in another consignment and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone had also carried with him food and medicine when he flew to Baghdad 10 days ago.

Crown Prince Discusses Use of Force in Crisis

JN0911164990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by unidentified VISNEWS reporter, conducted in English with Arabic subtitling—in Amman on 8 November]

[Text] [Reporter] King Husayn has just returned from Paris, as I understand, and I am curious to know if you could comment on what, if any, assurances he might have returned with from President Mitterrand about the use of force in the Gulf crisis?

[Hasan] As you know, the issue of the use of force is today the subject of discussion between Secretary Baker and the Soviet leadership as we understand. And as far as the permanent five is concerned, there is a process whereby Article 42 could be invoked, provided the consensus agreement were achieved. But I think his majesty's discussions were related to the use of force as indeed this country has always emphasized the importance not only of Article two—that is unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait in Resolution 660, but Article Three, which is of course the dialogue—direct negotiations between Kuwait and Iraq. So our approach has been very much to try and contain conflict rather than to discuss the use of force.

[Reporter] Was the king attempting to get President Mitterrand to commit to vetoing any use of force in the UN Security Council?

[Hasan] There is no role for Jordan in attempting to convince Security Council members to exercise the right of veto. Jordan's role, and indeed the role of many Arab countries, is to contribute to a political settlement. I think all Arab countries agree that United Nations resolutions have to be implemented in their entirety, and that is what we seek.

[Reporter] Was the king acting as an intermediary for President Saddam Husayn to Mitterrand?

[Hasan] We have made it very clear that Jordan is a facilitator; Jordan is a window where many visitors have, and still are proceeding to Baghdad from Amman. We are not apologists for Iraq. We are apologists for peace, and in that sense we have emphasized time and again the importance of these two very hard and intransigent positions, missing the point that war is around the corner. Unless and until the Iraqi messages are heard, and that is to say, the readiness to withdraw—as in the August 12 statement—with emphasis on no hostility during withdrawal, and secondly the question of linkage, which we understand in Jordan to mean sequential linkage of the Gulf crisis, that is to say annexation in the Gulf to be reversed and indeed annexation in Palestine and in Jerusalem to be reversed sequentially subsequently to the recognition of the same principle, if you will.

[Reporter] Do you feel that your relations with the United States are positive?

[Hasan] According to recent statements by not least of all Secretary Baker, it seems very clear that the United States is aware of Jordan's position and role, and bilaterally and indeed through the sanctions committee, aware of the extent of suffering that the Jordanian people have been subjected to. We know that 18 countries have applied for relief over the effects of sanctions. Jordan is the first to have presented a concrete proposal in this regard which I hope to be discussing on my forthcoming trip—I leave for Tokyo and then for Europe in the next few days.

Minister Views Gulf, U.S.-Arab 'Alliance'

JN0911203790 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din has said efforts should be made to defuse the Gulf crisis and to stop the deterioration of the situation to the brink of war, which would be devastating and would wipe out much of the progress the Arab world has achieved in the past years.

In an interview with Radio France International broadcast this evening, the information minister said no one could predict future developments of the Gulf crisis. He said Jordan sought from the beginning to be in the camp of peace. This camp has recently expanded with France and the Soviet Union and numerous world figures joining this camp.

Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said despite the fact that the peace camp has grown bigger, there are signs indicating that the Gulf region is heading towards an armed conflict. He said many of these signs come from the United States and Britain in particular.

Asked about the reasons which prompt the United States and Britain to insist on a military solution, the information minister said it is because of the desire to control the sources of oil in one way or another, as well as the desire to restructure a new world in which the big powers can play a more effective role. He explained that the Gulf crisis might be an opportunity for the big powers to gain such an advantage.

The information minister said an outbreak of war in the Gulf would affect everybody in the world and would have and leave devastating effects for all.

He said Jordan will be greatly affected in case war breaks out. Mr. 'Izz-al-Din noted that the United States is seeking to exclude Israel from participation in any military operation, particularly against Jordan, as the existing alliance included a number of Arab countries which would be embarrassed if Israel joined the alliance.

Former Minister Views 'Secret Leaflet' Ploy

JN1011165890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Nov 90 p 14 Second Edition

["Secret Leaflet" by Salah Abu-Zayd]

[Text] I have recently come across one of the secret leaflets that are overwhelming the people these days, disturbing their minds and thoughts, both day and night. It is strange that these secret leaflets that are now in vogue started before the democratic era began and have spread wildly with the spread of democracy. We all remember the famous "black file" story, a leaflet that was produced in dens whose stink almost rises from between the leaflet's lines. We all remember how the people received it with consternation and dislike because they hate stealthy moves in the dark, and because they

find it a dastardly and treacherous act hated by all courageous and right-thinking men.

In the past, some falsely claimed that it was necessary to resort to such things in the age of "darkness." However, I find it hard to imagine what type of a leader would justify the new cowardice and treachery in an era that they themselves describe as the era of democracy, light, and progress, given the fact that many persons of various colors, trends, and formations are reveling across the country, writing and speaking, indulging themselves in the north and in the south, and using their political shops to buy and sell in the name of democracy and freedom with no one to watch or bother them.

The new secret leaflet is very short; very short in wordage but replete with many things, some of which is connected with the source the writers claim to have taken their information from and some connected with names of their choices accused of being "agents" of the American Central Intelligence Agency. The leaflet also contains a grave mistake by the writers. They inadvertently revealed themselves by expressing the fear that some of these names might compete with them in occupying the front ranks in the current national upsurge.

The leaflet's writers claim that the names they have chosen were published in THE WASHINGTON POST. I really cannot resist the urge to swear to the whole world that none of the writers of this leaflet can prove that he is a reader of THE WASHINGTON POST or any other well-known world paper. Reading is a mental process that requires a degree of culture and knowledge that raises man above the level of secret leaflets and prevents him from slandering people. Had they been reading anything other than cheap literature, they would have learned that in order to be honest in quoting or citing someone, they should give enough information about the sources they cite. The claims that such and such paper said such and such thing does not prove the veracity of the report or the credibility of the reporter. The issue, number, and date of the newspaper should also be cited.

Some of the names the leaflet mentions are among those known for their genuine affiliation with the homeland, their deep attachment to this nation and regime. The history of their service to this country, people, and king have won for them the people's love and appreciation. The majority of these names have resisted the political trends and organizations that have been spreading in Jordan and the Arab world since the 1940's and 1950's of this century. They have never known any foreign embassy to visit by night or any Arab embassy from which to take orders by day. They have never used others as stepping stones to rise above them or have practiced the political opportunism of joining the winner. They never gambled politically. None of them divided his loyalty by placing one foot in Jordan and a thousand feet abroad. None of them expounded any cause save that of Jordan, the Arabs, and King Husayn. They never supported their country in the springtime and worked against it in the storms of winter. None of them was a seasonal commodity or on the waiting list of the mercenary ranks. Despite the vicissitudes of life, they refused to open shops for pan-Arabism at the expense of sacred nationalism. They always coupled morality with knowledge, maintaining a strong link between the two. They never submitted to betrayal or prostrated themselves before temptations or threats, regardless of their sources and power.

The leaflet features other people who have been as genuinely Arab as they have been Christian since the days of the Ghassanides [pre-Islamic Christian tribes]. Handed down from fathers who have striven to build the edifice of this country and to spread its message under the historical leadership of the Hashemites to serve the Palestinian cause, advance Arab freedom, unity, and prosperity, their patriotism has never been in doubt.

As for the patriotic camp, within which the authors of the leaflet fear for their place, it certainly has true patriots of impeccable character, but it also includes mercenaries and opportunists.

Democracy that nurtures patriotism is not about sloganeering and selling ourselves to the public as innocents free from capital sins. The Jordanian people, as the authors of the leaflet would have us believe, are not lacking in maturity. Armed with awareness and long experience, the Jordanian people are able to tell good men from bad. Whoever casts aspersions on the worthy among the Jordanian people is, in effect, casting aspersions on the tradition, character, and attributes of this people.

Democracy need not and should not mean a free-for-all country without moral and disciplinary checks and balances. Nor should it mean that one can lightly write off the past and claim that the history of the country must begin with them. Jordan has always been the "model homeland," which can boast a miracle all its own wrought by men of special caliber, and just as he is today of the people, by the people, and from the people, [King] Husayn has always been that. Just as he is today the "mentor of the march", the "king of goodness", the "leader of the march", and "our great Husayn", he has always been and will forever be that. I can almost hear shouts of approval over the horizon coming from the dead and living in Amman, al-Salt, Irbid, Karak, Jerusalem, Nabulus, and Hebron.

Democracy has its own rules and traditions developed over the years by combined public and individual effort. It is these rules and traditions that give democracy beauty and splendor, and make it something to be proud of. Let us not forget for a minute that democracy is not to be divorced from individual morality and public conduct. Let us not forget that if democracy fails to be tempered with the sovereignty of law, it will be an exercise in frivolity and demagoguery.

Lastly, the author of the leaflet talking about agents is a case of the pot calling the kettle black. He is like someone who in public wears the patriot mantle, but whose true

identity will eventually be found out. Being on the payroll of the American Central Intelligence Agency, or any other intelligence agency for that matter, one would have to meet certain requirements of which "morality" is not one.

You need not search long for the source of morality in this world!! Its abiding fountain has been and will forever be the Koran. Consider God's highest commendation of his honorable messenger: And thou (standest) on an exalted standard of character. [Koranic verse]

Baker 'Failure' Said To Encourage Arab Solution

JN1111084890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 Nov 90 pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "Baker Fails to Get War Authorization"]

[Text] It seems that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's tour has ended without obtaining the necessary international consensus to pass a new resolution at the UN Security Council that would allow the United States to wage war against Iraq in the name of consensus, alliance, and the entire world.

Although some of the U.S. Arab allies have gone beyond giving full authorization to a possible U.S. aggression on Iraq and have declared their approval, some capitals Baker visited, especially the capitals of the UN Security Council permanent member states, have refrained from giving Washington the authorization to launch war.

Thus, if we exclude the encouragement fraught with instigation by London and some Arab capitals eager for war, the U.S. Secretary of State found that most of his other hosts have adopted responsible positions that call for searching for peaceful options to remove the Gulf from the dangers of any possible eruption of war.

Perhaps this outcome, which James Baker will attempt to conceal as much as possible, allows an objective opportunity for the peace advocates in the region and the world to act effectively in order to crystallize concepts, views, and options that will help all parties overcome their difficulties, and urge the allied forces led by Washington to decrease the tone of war and fighting and raise high the banner of the peace option. This will lead to the only acceptable result, namely, opening the door to negotiations and dialogue.

James Baker's failure to open the door for the war option and pass the Anglo-Saxons' war intentions under the cover of the UN Security Council, must encourage the Arab peace camp to regain the initiative and propose a coordinated initiative that would seize the crisis from the hands of the crusader alliance and put it on the table of the Arab solution—the only solution.

Thatcher Urged To Depart Before Confidence Loss

JN1411111190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
14 Nov 90 p 22

["Behind the Events" column by Ya'qub Jabir: "Has the Time Come for Thatcher's Departure?]

[Text] Ever Since Margaret Thatcher assumed office 11 years ago, she has been working painstakingly to devote herself to being a loyal, sincere follower of U.S. desires. Never in the history of Britain has the country experienced an era like that of Thatcher, during which the country has been completely subservient to U.S. policy.

The "Iron Lady"—an epithet for Thatcher, owing to her stubbornness and the way she clings tenaciously to her opinions and political views—thinks that Britain has a vital interest in going along with U.S. policy lines and not pursuing an independent course of action in the way it handles international and European issues. Although Britain is part of Europe, moreover, and is supposed to adopt a course of action in line with the policy of the European Community, Thatcher has endeavored to be the maverick within the European Community who receives orders from Washington.

Furthermore, it is for the sake of Washington that Britain tenaciously objected to many issues within the European Community to deactivate European unity or impede its progress. For, the United States does not want to see a strong, united Europe standing as an economic giant to compete with it in foreign markets. Therefore, the United States has planned to make Britain, under the leadership of Thatcher, serve as the Trojan horse within the European Community.

Britain's recent blind support for U.S. policy constitutes London's position on the Gulf crisis. The British Government, as its officials, particularly Thatcher, say, has all the time been launching fiery statements against Iraq, trying to surpass even those of U.S. statesmen in their hostility toward Baghdad, and calling for stoking the fires of war and destroying Iraq's military power. This hostility, however, has not cost Britain much because it sent only a small force to the Gulf as part of the so-called multinational forces stationed on the land of Saudi Arabia. Britain, therefore, fears not the outcome of war because, after all, those who are going to engage in the fighting are American soldiers.

The "Iron Lady" is now facing a snowballing challenge from her political opponents. This challenge has been triggered by the resignation of her deputy, Sir Geoffrey Howe, because he and Thatcher were at loggerheads concerning Britain's European policy. The dispute mushroomed within the ruling Conservative Party, to the degree that the party's unity has become precarious, something the party had not experienced in years.

This dispute also affects British society. Public opinion is now dismayed by Thatcher's policy. The latest opinion poll revealed that 65 percent of Britons believe that Thatcher should resign.

Thatcher's major rival to the party's leadership is former Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine, who severely criticized her following the resignation of Sir Geoffrey. Heseltine wrote that the resignation reflects a crisis of confidence in Thatcher's rule and political performance.

Has the time come for Thatcher's departure after scoring a record number of successive terms as prime minister? Most likely, Thatcher's popularity is on the decline now and the current crisis is deep enough to force her either to resign or to lose the confidence of voters.

Iraq Urged To Apply Human Rights, Democracy

JN1211154590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 20

["The Last Post" column by Mu'nis al-Razzaz: "The Gulf and Democracy"]

[Text] In the past, tribal frictions arose between the Aws and the Khazraj tribes that developed into a series of battles in which every party used to ally with the Jews against the other side and would search for other allies outside Yathrib [Medina]. Then another fight erupted between the Aws and the Khazraj tribes. The Aws allied themselves with the Jewish tribes of Bani Qurayzah and Bani al-Nadir. There came about the battle of Bi'ath, which ended in the victory of the Aws.

So the leaders of the Arab tribes used to ally themselves with the devil, as one of the leaders of the Arab nation said, just to defeat a clan that had become too overbearing for the larger tribe.

Oil shaykhs and barrel owners: If war breaks out it will not spare you and you will be exposed to its fire after the Cold War has ended. I wonder, why has the Cold War ended, yet the fire of hell has broken loose in the Gulf? We all know the answer.

Yes, ally yourselves, you leaders, with the forces of evil to destroy the rising Arab force. In this way, you are not forced to confront the crisis with Israel after dispensing with the Palestine question. I can now see the women in your countries driving cars after becoming fed up with your backwardness encouraged by the United States. However, I must stress human rights here. If the Arab-Americans do not care about human rights, the Arab counter-strategy should be to put the issue of human rights on the top of its priorities. Unfortunately, we see that the leaders of the pioneering unionist Arab strategy, who believe in and struggle for the sake of awakening and reemergence, and to give life to the body of the sick man representing our nation, hate to delve into the issue of human rights. We prophesy and say that emergence and unity cannot be finalized and cannot triumph without adopting democracy. Therefore, it seems to us that the oil regimes are not enthusiastic about the Arab strategy to rise again. They fear to embrace human rights and they treat any citizen in a bestial manner that shows no respect for his humanity.

Proceeding from this, I call on the leadership and decision-makers of Iraq to consider the human rights of the Iraqi citizen, as well as the Arab, and then the foreign citizens. I call on them not to go too far their harshness so that the Arab rise, which Iraq is currently leading will be feasible; in other words, the awakening should carry within its folds guarantees to maintain human rights.

Proceeding from this, we call on the leadership in Iraq with its iron nerves, not to be too harsh on the Iraqi citizen, or the Arab non-Iraqi citizen, and to adopt democracy so that it can restore dignity to whoever has been unjustly killed, restore esteem to strugglers who ended up in forgotten graves, and to respond to the world, which is accusing Iraq of Nazism, with the weapon of democracy.

Iraq Strike Seen To Elevate Israeli Status

JN1011111390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Nov pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Striking Iraq Is the Cornerstone of Greater Israel"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration continues to escalate the campaign of hatred and provocation against Iraq on the international arena, while leading a campaign at the UN General Assembly to abrogate the 1975 Assembly resolution that regards Zionism as a form of racism. It calls for pause that Washington alluded to contacts with a number of Arab states in this regard, in which it called on them to support the U.S. endeavor—claiming that supporting this endeavor will show Israel that the Arabs are ready for peace!

This is how Washington deals with the Arabs. It seeks to strike at and destroy them by preparing to destroy Iraq. In the meantime, it seeks to extend a generous reward to the Israeli aggressors, who have defied all international resolutions on the Palestine question, the two recent UN Security Council resolutions which called for dispatching a UN fact-finding commission to the occupied territories, and the UN secretary general's call for a meeting of the countries that signed the fourth Geneva Convention Agreement on protecting civilians under occupation. Instead of working to impose sanctions on Israel as a result of its defiance, Washington is rushing to thank it by seeking to abrogate the international resolution condemning Zionism. It is noteworthy that this endeavor aims to qualify Israel before the world as the region's dominating power that is also internationally accepted, following a strike on Iraq. Consequently, the strong relationship between the U.S. buildup—which is escalating day by day to strike Iraq—and the U.S. endeavor to acquit Zionism of racism has become apparent. In light of this view, which is clear to all, we call on the Arabs who joined Washington's buildup in the Gulf to

withdraw from it, especially since it has transpired that the true aim behind it is not to settle the Gulf crisis but rather to qualify Israel to become the number one power in the region. It is unacceptable under any pretext for the Arab soldier to be dragged into raising his weapon against the Iraqi Arab soldier in order for Israel to assume the first position in the Middle East!!

The United States has openly abandoned the commitment it had stressed at the beginning of the Gulf crisis—that the role of its forces in the Gulf does not go beyond being a defensive one. Here is President Bush declaring, within the world's earshot and sight, that preparations are under way for an offensive role to be carried out by the forces pooled in the Gulf against Iraq, and that for this reason he has given directions to reinforce these forces by 200 thousand more U.S. forces from the United States and Europe!!

It is not sufficient for the Arabs who were contacted by Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, to say that they will not respond to his call to exculpate Zionism of racism. Duty calls on all Arabs to arrest this U.S. goal, namely, to declare Israel the dominating power in the region; and to collectively work as one to foil this evil objective, which can only lead to submitting the Arabs to Israeli hegemony, eliminating the Palestine question, and opening prospects for the Israeli aggressors to seize Arab land to accommodate new Jewish immigrants and consequently accomplish their dream of establishing Greater Israel.

The Arabs must realize that the buildup led by the United States against Iraq is the first step on this road, and that striking at Iraq means laying the cornerstone for Greater Israel. History will never forgive—nor will the coming generations ever forgive—any Arab hand involved in laying this cornerstone.

Editorials Praise Call for Arab Summit

AL-DUSTUR

JN1211165590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Nov 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "A Positive Initiative By Morocco"]

[Text] In view of the current diplomatic vacuum in the Arab world and the prevailing atmosphere of extreme political polarization in Arab politics, King Hassan II's call for an extraordinary Arab summit fills a major part of the current vacuum and provides a tangible alternative to the current atmosphere of expectation and suspense in Arab capitals.

Hence, we view the Moroccan monarch's call positively, which has come in the midst of a serious military escalation by the Anglo-Saxons in the Arabian Gulf. We view this intelligent Moroccan move as a serious attempt to lift the ban on dialogue among Arab capitals, something that may open the door for a concerted diplomatic Arab move to rescue the Gulf crisis from the crusading alliance in the Gulf.

Therefore, we hope that King Hassan II's call will receive the attention and response it deserves from various Arab capitals, especially those that rejected every possible Arab meeting to discuss the crisis, even when such a meeting was called for by a respectable international leader such as Mikhail Gorbachev who, while in Paris, called for an Arab conference and stressed the need to give the crisis its full Arab scope.

Thus, we want Arab leaders and officials to respond quickly to the Moroccan call, which can open the way for a genuine revision of their hastily taken positions on the crisis and make it possible to overcome the negative impact of the Cairo summit conference and create an appropriate opportunity for announcing a collective Arab stance toward the successive and unjust UN Security Council resolutions that have been adopted over the past few weeks, particularly those resolutions seeking to starve the people of Iraq and impose a food embargo on them.

The Moroccan monarch's call yesterday constitutes an important diplomatic contribution toward easing the extreme tension and silencing the beating drums of war for a while. Therefore, this call must not be irresponsibly wasted, and must not be met with silence and ignorance, especially since the Arab Maghreb states can play a more important role in dealing with the Gulf crisis. We hope such a role will take shape at the proposed extraordinary summit.

AL-RA'Y

JN1311175790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 22, 17

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "The Arab Summit, Its Conditions and Its Objectives"]

[Text] Following the Cairo trap, any invitations to an Arab summit have become more of a cause for doubt than an instrument for joint pan-Arab action. Conditions for holding a summit at present precede acceptance to attend such summits. It is inconceivable that the United States and its Arabs would achieve under an Arab umbrella what they failed to achieve through troop concentrations and threats of war.

We do not doubt the Moroccan king's invitation, and this is not a political stand, especially since the popular sentiments in great Morocco have over the past two months more than clarified and amended the official approach and concept. What we want to affirm here is that the realization of a common language at this summit is more important than its convocation:

First, the Iraqi forces are not the only forces which now impose their presence on the Gulf. They are no longer the problem for which we seek a solution. Half the U.S. army is there. There are official U.S. statements that

these forces will remain there. There is also official U.S. talk that Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait is not enough. There is official U.S. talk that the target is the Iraqi army, its weapons, and its technological feats. Will the Arab summit convene to discuss Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait while the U.S. armies of aggression remain in the Gulf with their declared objectives?

Second, holding the Arab summit under the slogan of "the last opportunity" is like pointing the U.S. trigger at Iraq's head and imposing subjugation on it. The Arab regimes which announce their readiness to negotiate from behind the U.S. tanks and fleets should first come out from behind these tanks. If these regimes admit that they are weak regimes and need military balances to conduct negotiations in a comfortable manner, then these regimes should seek these balances from the armies of Egypt, Syria, and Morocco, and even from Pakistan, but not from the United States, the enemy of the Arab nation, of its causes, future, and destiny.

Neither Iraq, nor the Arab masses could accept negotiations of this type, given that Iraq had announced it is willing to negotiate with the United States, Britain, or with the United Nations. But for Washington to use its Arab friends and to portray them as real partners in the negotiations is an exposed maneuver.

Iraq, and behind it all the Arab people are ready for an Arab peace. They, too are ready for a confrontation with the enemy forces. Had the United States really been capable of striking Iraq without it and its Arab friends sustaining known losses, it would not have needed an Arab summit. By the way, it has announced through President Mubarak that such a summit will be a summit where abuses will be exchanged and not a summit of Arabs who realize the interests of their nation and their people.

Will Washington, for example, agree to an Arab solution to the issue of Kuwait? Has it announced it will agree to such a solution? Or is its announcement that it will increase its forces in the Gulf to approximately half a million U.S. and NATO soldiers part of the preparations for the last chance Arab summit? Can one negotiate with those who tell the Americans: Give me back Kuwait, even if it is destroyed, today, and not tomorrow? Can one negotiate with a regime that believes that the Arabs have only abuses to protect their interests and destiny?

The Moroccan king's concern for and invitation to a summit deserve respect. But the foul waters which have been passing under the bridges over the past three months make us view the conditions and objectives of any Arab summit in a different manner following the Cairo trap.

UK Ambassador Expresses Optimism About Hostages

NC1411114690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] British Ambassador David Tathan has met with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Suhayl Shammas. Concerning the hostages, he said afterward: We are optimistic, unlike we were before, when it was said the hostages would be freed. This time we have noticed that matters are improving.

Iranian Hostage Families Meet With Al-Musawi

LD1311183190 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov. 13, IRNA—The families of Iranian hostages kidnapped by Lebanon's Christian Phalangists in 1982, arrived here Tuesday [13 November] and met with head of the Islamic Amal movement Husayn al-Musawi.

During the meeting Al-Musawi condemned the kidnapping of Iranians and said they were the first victims to be abducted in Lebanon despite enjoying diplomatic immunity.

Al-Musawi, popularly known as Abu Heshman, also castigated the West's efforts to trace out the Westerners missing in Lebanon without caring about the fate of Iranian hostages, the prime victims of kidnapping and the longest to be held so far. He urged local and international circles to make efforts to force the Phalangists to release the Iranian hostages.

The families of the Iranian hostages are scheduled to meet with a number of Lebanese religious and political figures to secure the release of their dear ones. They had already visited Ireland and Switzerland to make known their plight. The Iranian hostages include three diplomats and a photographer kidnapped at a Phalangist-controlled check point in Lebanon in 1982.

Army To Begin 'All-Out Deployment' 17 Nov

NC1411084190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army will begin its all-out deployment in greater Beirut on Saturday after the militias withdraw and their weapons and gunmen are removed. This step will be immediately followed by a new stage during which the state will consolidate its authority over all Lebanon. The entire situation will be the main topic on the cabinet's agenda during its upcoming meeting.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese-Syrian summit is expected to convene shortly after the completion of the Greater Beirut Plan.

In a bid to strengthen stability and tranquillity, the Lebanese Army Command told the parties yesterday that the deadline set to end the show of force within greater Beirut expires on 16 November and that the Army will begin storming operations to make sure that all procedures have been meticulously implemented.

The Army Command's memorandum, which was conveyed by the defense minister, bans any show of force or transporting of illegal weapons, rescinds all previously issued permits to bear arms, and bans the erection of armed checkpoints. The memorandum calls for evacuating all illegitimate party centers, including apartments and houses, and for retrieving the Army's hardware.

Meanwhile, the parties concerned with the Greater Beirut Plan continued to withdraw their weapons and members yesterday. Hizballah removed eight trucks carrying two M-113 armored personnel carriers, one gun, and various types of ammunition, from the southern suburb to an area outside greater Beirut.

The Lebanese-Syrian Coordination Committee took over 11 party centers in the two al-Matn regions yesterday. These include five centers belonging to the Promise Party in al-Fayyadiyah, B'abda, al-Kahhalah, 'Araya, and Furn al-Subbak. The other six centers belonged to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Emergency Command in the areas of Jall al-Dib, Mazra'at Yashu', Qurnat al-Hamra', Bayt Shabab, and al-Frikah. The committee will take over more centers belonging to the two parties in northern al-Matn today.

The withdrawal of all gunmen will begin today and is expected to be completed on 19 November.

Lebanese Forces Said Circumventing Beirut Plan

NC1311192190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The Syrian-Lebanese Military Coordination Committee today took over 10 new party centers from the Promise Party [Hubayqah's Lebanese Forces] and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—Emergency Command in the areas of Furn al-Shubbak, Jall al- Dib, Mazra'at Yashu', Bayt Shabab, Qurnat al-Hamra', al-Fayyadiyah, 'Arayya, al-Kahhalah, and B'abda.

The Army Command warned that after 16 November the Army will raid any suspicious center in the greater Beirut area. According to the AL-SUHUFIYAH NEWS AGENCY, the Army Command has informed all the concerned parties and organizations that greater Beirut will be born on Saturday [17 November] and will be free of illegal weapons. It referred to a series of measures rescinding all previously issued permits to bear arms, banning any show of arms or transporting of illegal weapons in the areas where the Army is deployed, evacuating all illegitimate party offices, including apartments and houses used as offices, and retrieving all the Army's weapons and vehicles.

Meanwhile, all the available facts show that the so-called Lebanese Forces are not withdrawing their weapons and ammunition and are not responding to the Greater Beirut Plan. In addition to what we previously reported about Ja'ja's collecting his heavy weapons in al-Ashrafiyah but not withdrawing them from the area, security sources have reported that orders given by the leader of the Lebanese

Forces have been intercepted. The orders instruct his cadres to abolish the central arms and ammunition storage centers and to distribute this equipment among small stores and houses in undisclosed residential areas. Similar directives were issued regarding the storage facilities for explosives. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces To Comply, Withdraw by 16 Nov

NC1411120790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] According to security sources, the Lebanese Forces have not yet handed over their offices, nor have they removed any of their heavy-caliber weapons. The security sources added that the Lebanese Forces have informed the competent authorities that they will be ready to hand over their offices not later than 16 November.

Developments in Withdrawals From Iqlim al-Tuffah

Hizballah on Palestinian Withdrawal

NC1411111490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The quadripartite committee in charge of the implementation of the Damascus agreement [between the Amal Movement and Hizballah] resumed work in Iqlim al-Tuffah yesterday. Lebanese Red Cross teams evacuated 12 bodies which were still in the area. Technical teams also entered the region to repair water and electricity lines. [passage omitted]

As for the Lebanese Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, our radio has learned that preparations are under way to arrange for the required force and the mapping of its deployment in the area extending from Nahr al-Zahrani to Siniq, after gunmen have withdrawn from the region.

In another development, Hizballah official Abu-Yasir called on Palestinians to withdraw from Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said Palestinians had justified their deployment by claiming to stop the bloodshed. Now that the conflict has been settled, the Palestinians must withdraw and refrain from obstructing the Damascus agreement, the official said, adding that he is convinced this agreement will succeed.

For his part, Fatah official Anwar Madi said his movement will not stand as an obstacle to the Lebanese Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah, which will be effected within the framework of a plan to impose the state's authority over all Lebanese areas.

Amal, Hizballah To Begin 14 Nov

NC1411112590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Regarding the Iqlim al-Tuffah issue, Some thirteen bodies of Amal Movement and Hizballah militants who died in recent fighting between the two parties were evacuated yesterday.

The withdrawal of the armed men is scheduled to begin this afternoon, and the process is to be completed on 19 November.

The emergency committee of the quadripartite committee will meet today to prepare for the withdrawal measure.

[Hizballah Secretary General] Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli announced that a committee has been set up to oversee compliance with the cease-fire agreement in Iqlim al-Tuffah effective today.

After a meeting with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Hasan Akhtari, and Minister Nabih Birri, he said the committee will arrange for the exchange of detainees and prisoners tomorrow after the cease-fire has been consolidated.

The Iranian charge d'affaires said the full implementation of the Damascus agreement will resolve all problems between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He added that practical measures to implement the agreeemnt are proceeding well.

PLO Seeks Formula on Palestinian Rights, Duties

NC1411070390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The PLO's political leadership in Lebanon has announced that it supports efforts to facilitate implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan. In a statement, the leadership called for initiating official negotiations between the PLO and the legitimate Lebanese authorities with a view to normalizing relations and establishing official Palestinian representation through a Palestinian embassy.

The leadership stressed that these negotiations should work out a formula establishing the rights and duties of Palestinians in Lebanon. This formula should be based on the Palestinians' right to exercise struggle in its various forms, common Lebanese-Palestinian interests, Palestinian integration with the national resistance, mutual cooperation, protection of the Palestinian camps against Israeli attacks, and the right to participate in armed struggle against the Israeli enemy.

The statement also welcomed the agreement between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. This agreement serves Palestinian national interests.

Franjiyah Grandson Escapes Assassination

NC1411!3690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] According to northern security sources, Sulayman Tony Franjiyah [grandson of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah] was subjected to an assassination attempt on the road leading to Bnash'i three days ago. A booby-trapped car was set to explode when he moved to his headquarters.

Al-Maradah Command's security authorities suspected and inspected the car, which was found to be rigged with 50 kg of TNT. The authorities dismantled the car. Security authorities withheld the investigation's findings and the identity of the responsible party.

Al-Shar' Receives U.S. Congressional Delegation

JN1311152090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received today the U.S. Congressional delegation led by Congress member Neal Smith. The meeting was attended by Raslan 'Allush, director of the America department at the Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus. They discussed relations between Syria and the United States, as well as the situation in the region.

Egyptian Team Arrives To Prepare for Meetings

JN1311154190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Members of the Egyptian Arab delegation to the meetings of the preparatory committee of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee arrived in Damascus last night. The preparatory committee will begin meetings in Damascus this morning. The delegation was received by a number of senior officials from concerned ministries in Syria and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus.

Sa'd Muhammad Daymumi, first under secretary of the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation, head of the Arab-African cooperation sector, and member of the delegation, made a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent in which he expressed his happiness and that of the delegation for visiting Syria. He praised the relations of cooperation and brotherhood between fraternal countries. He indicated that the aim of this visit is to prepare for meetings of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee and to discuss issues and topics covering all economic, agricultural, industrial, media, and other fields between the two sisterly countries.

It is noteworthy that the delegation comprises representatives from the Ministries of International Cooperation, Foreign Affairs, Information, Economy and Foreign Trade, Health, Industry, Finance, Petroleum, Tourism, Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Transport, Housing, Reconstruction and new Societies, and Electricity and Energy.

Egyptian Minister Arrives

JN1411103690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1652 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA)—Dr. Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation, arrived here this evening to lead his country's delegation to the meeting of the preparatory committee of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee.

He was received by Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade; Khalid al-Mahayini, minister of finance; Muhammad al-Sharif, governor of the Syrian Central Bank; the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus; and a number of senior officials from the Economy and Finance Ministries.

In a statement following his arrival, Dr. Makramallah praised the deep brotherly relations between Syria and Egypt and said his visit is aimed at reviewing the available capabilities for bilateral cooperation in various spheres. He stressed that these meetings will help realize the supreme goal of integration and cooperation in all spheres.

Subcommittees Begin Meeting

JN1411095590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA)—The subcommittees of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee began their meeting here today to discuss topics to be submitted to the higher committee's upcoming meeting.

Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi earlier today received the members of the Syrian-Egyptian subcommittees in the presence of the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus. Dr. al-'Imadi stressed the importance of these meetings in fomenting the existing brotherly cooperation between the two fraternal countries, a cooperation whose groundwork was laid by President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Dr. al-'Imadi centered on aspects of cooperation in all fields of interest to the work of the higher committee, which seeks to explore all the available issues and potentials of the two countries, to study their valid regulations and laws, and to define a real vision of the work of the committee in the interest of our Arab people in Syria and Egypt.

Al-Asad Receives Phone Call From Al-Hirawi

JN1311144690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received yesterday a telephone call from His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The two presidents discussed Morocco's proposal for holding an extraordinary Arab summit conference. During the contact, President al-Hirawi reviewed the efforts of the legitimate Lebanese Government to spread its authority over the Lebanese territories.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's determination to support the efforts of the legitimate Lebanese Government to implement the Greater Beirut Plan and achieve national accord.

Talas Reiterates Gulf Policy at Commencement

JN1211174390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpts] As part of our Armed Forces' observance of the 20th anniversary of the blessed corrective movement, a new entry of students at the Women's Military Academy graduated this morning. General Mustafa

Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister presided over the ceremony on behalf of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

Against a background of chants celebrating the party and leader of the march, struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, Gen. Talas gave a speech. He began by conveying greetings from leader al-Asad and his wishes of success for graduates in their military careers and the discharge of their national and pan-Arab tasks in the ranks. [passage omitted]

He reviewed the rapidly moving regional developments and mounting risks to our Arab homeland as a result of the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait, the subsequent foreign military buildup in the Gulf, and Israel's acquisition of up-to-date American weaponry and equipment making it the most formidable regional power and thereby be better placed to expand, attack, and make fresh gains at the expense of the Palestinian cause, which Iraq's action has pushed into the background. [passage omitted]

Gen. Talas said that, led by President Al-Asad, Syria will continue to provide Lebanon with all that it takes to keep it strong, and will continue to support its legitimate government until the country's territorial and demographic unity is achieved and southern Lebanon liberated from Zionist occupation. [passage omitted]

Thatcher Government Has Lost 'Credibility'

JN0911093190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 9 Nov (SANA)—Under the headline "Where Is Rationalism?", the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary today that the open disagreements that have erupted within the British Government reflect the state of feebleness and confusion from which the Conservative Party led by Mrs. Thatcher is suffering.

The paper adds that the popularity of this party has sunk to an unexpected low as a result of its unsuccessful policies on many important and vital aspects, whether at home or abroad.

Thatcher's government, says the paper, has lost much of its balance and credibility in the Middle East and made a host of terrible mistakes that do not at all match its size and role as a permanent Security Council member. This government continues to adopt a hostile and absolutely unjustifiable position toward Syria, a position that entails much prejudice and deception.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Although the pretext used by Britain to justify its decision to break off relations with Syria has been proved false and untrue, Thatcher's government continues its stubbornness and arrogance and insists on proceeding with its deviation, proving to everyone that its policy is inspired by the Zionist propaganda, which since Balfour days have been trying to keep British decisionmaking within Israel's aggressive logic and expansionist ambitions.

Concluding, the paper says that Thatcher's conduct indicates that her political approach is futile and lacks in many objective and rational factors. Moreover, it gives sufficient indications that the star of Thatcherism is down.

Paper Blasts PLO Leaders' Stance on Iraq

JN1411100290 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 14 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN criticizes the position of certain PLO officials on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The paper stresses that the Gulf countries have lost confidence in the Palestinians, a development that will make no gain for the Palestinian struggle.

In an editorial today, the newspaper refers to the wealth acquired by Palestinian workers in Gulf countries and to the losses and unemployment resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It also says: These losses are estimated at billions of dollars; they have harmed the Palestine question.

The newspaper adds: We reveal no secret if we say that the strange position taken by some PLO officials toward the Iraqi invasion has aroused the anger of the Gulf countries' leaders and obliged many of them to reconsider their previous good relations with the PLO. Moreover, the world's preoccupation with the tense situation that has been created by the invasion has given Israel a golden and unique opportunity in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Zionists have exploited this situation to double the influx of Jewish immigrants to the occupied territories. This has also weakened Arab interest in how to confront the Jewish immigration.

TISHRIN draws attention to the escalation of the repressive and terrorist Zionist campaigns against the citizens of the occupied territories to destroy the intifadah, desecrate the holy shrines, and humiliate the Arabs and Muslims. The situation has also prevented the international mass media from continuing their interesting coverage of these campaigns because they are now publishing reports on the Iraqi invasion on their front pages.

The newspaper then refutes allegations by some Palestinians that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait has served the Palestine question. It wonders if there is any logical example supporting these allegations.

The newspaper adds: They have made a serious mistake by throwing themselves into the furnace of a big conspiracy, with which Palestine has nothing to do. They have used the large popular support for their cause to beautify an irresponsible and ugly action and cover up a big crime against the Arab struggle. They have also thrown the Palestinian people into a dangerous and costly crisis.

Concluding, the newspaper urges the Palestinian leaders to retreat from their position on the invasion, and says: This retreat, if it occurs, will represent a national and pan-Arab virtue that will preserve the Arab depth of the Palestine question and safeguard that question's militant vigor in the conscience of the Arab masses.

India

Naval Surveillance Increases Amid Gulf Tension

BK1311160690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 13 (AFP)—India has increased surveillance on the high seas because of the possibility of a war breaking out in the Gulf and spilling over into "our area," a senior Navy official was quoted as saying here Tuesday [13 November]. "There is a chance of a possible conflict getting spilled over our area," Vice Chief of Naval Staff H. Johnson reportedly said.

Admiral Johnson told reporters in an informal conversation that Indian warships and naval aircraft had boosted vigil as a precaution, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

He and other naval officers also spoke of the possibility of India's participation in case the United Nations decides to deploy a regional peacekeeping force in the Gulf, the news agency said. They said the Indian Navy had prepared a report on the possibility and "any decision on this lay with the government," it added without giving further details.

India is not a member of the multi-national peacekeeping force deployed in the Gulf following Iraq's August 2 occupation and subsequent annexation of neighbouring Kuwait. The crisis resulting from the Iraqi action hit New Delhi hard, with a fall in remittances from thousands of Indians employed in the Middle East and a hefty hike in the oil import bill.

Adm. Johnson also spoke briefly about India's naval expansion plans. He said India would induct 40 more warships by 1998-99. A new generation of warships were being designed to be built at the turn of the century, he said.

The Navy is India's fastest growing military arm and its rapid expansion has triggered concern in countries as far away as Australia who suspect New Delhi is harbouring blue water ambitions.

In the past three years, India has added two aircraft carriers, a leased Soviet nuclear submarine, six new warships, a corvette and a frigate to its fleet and currently has 14 submarines, two aircraft carriers, five destroyers, 24 frigates and 32 patrol and coastal command vessels. In April it launched a locally-built missile ship equipped for long-range maritime combat.

New Delhi has justified the expansion on grounds that it was needed to protect India's long coastline, exclusive economic zone and offshore oil facilities.

President To Attend Akihito Coronation in Tokyo

Leaves New Delhi 11 Nov

BK1111145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Tokyo is all set for the enthronment of Emperor Akihito tomorrow. Most of the leaders from 158 countries have arrived.

The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, left New Delhi for Tokyo a short while ago to attend the coronation ceremony. [passage omitted]

Met by Shekhar, Gandhi on Return

BK1311134890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has said that his party has nothing to do with the ministry making at the center and it is entirely up to the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, to include any one in his Cabinet. Mr. Gandhi was speaking to newsmen after holding discussions with Mr. Chandra Shekhar for over 10 minutes at the airport where both had gone to receive the president returning from Tokyo.

The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, told newmsen earlier that the enthronement ceremony at Tokyo yesterday was in a traditional style, bearing the stamp of Japanese efficiency. The president returned to New Delhi this afternoon. He was received at the airport by the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar; the deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal; the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and others.

Prime Minister Shekhar Receives Congratulations

From Pakistan, Sri Lanka Leaders

BK1111034590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Several more world leaders have felicitated Mr. Chandra Shekhar on his assumption of the office of the prime minister of India. In a message, the prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has reiterated his desire to develop cooperative and good-neighborly relations with India. He hoped that the outstanding issues between the two countries would be sorted out under the international and bilateral agreements.

The president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Premadasa, in his message, hoped that the relations between his country and India would further enhance in future. He said both the countries have enjoyed relationship based on friendship, close cooperation, and mutual understanding over the centuries.

The Maldives president has also congratulated Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

From China's Li Peng

BK1211125790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] The Chinese premier, Mr. Li Peng, has congratulated Mr. Chandra Shekhar on his assumption of office as the prime minister of India. In a message, Mr. Li Peng said the development of friendly relations between the two nations is not only fundamental for the interests of the two people, but also contributes to peace and stability in Asia.

New Pakistani Envoy Presents Credentials 9 Nov

BK1011001090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] The new High Commissioner of Pakistan, Mr. Abdul Sattar, presented his credentials to the president, Mr. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] in New Delhi today.

Welcoming the new high commissioner, the president reiterated India's firm commitment to the establishment of cooperative and good-neighborly relations between India and Pakistan. He expressed the hope that the ongoing process of bilateral dialogue to reduce the present tensions will be carried forward to its logical conclusion. In this context, Mr. Venkataraman said that India regards SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] as the most valuable forum for promoting cooperation among the countries of the region.

Congress-Shekhar Agreement Over Bofors Alleged

BK1311160990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal today asked the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, and the Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, not to act as leaders of their respective legislative parties. Talking to newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, questioned the authority of Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is now in the Janata Dal-S, to ask the assembly speaker to expel some Janata Dal MLA's [members of legislative assembly].

Referring to the Bofors [gun deal] issue, Mr. Reddy criticized the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, for his statement that investigation of economic offenses is the job of police officials. He alleged that one of the conditions for the Congress-I support to Janata Dal-S is that the Bofors inquiry will not be pursued. Asked whether the National Front will claim the opposition leader's status in the Lok Sabha, he said the issue is not at all important in the present context.

Reactor Using Man-Made Uranium-233 Commissioned

BK1311163190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] India's experimental atomic reactor Purnima-3 has attained criticality at Bombay using man-made fuel Uranium-233. This is the first time in the world that a reactor of this type became functional using the fissile isotope of uranium, namely uranium 233. Other reactors used the naturally occurring uranium-235.

Our correspondent, quoting Bhabha Atomic Research Center sources at Bombay, says this zero energy reactor will assist the 30-kilowatt Kamini research reactor at Kalpakkam, which is expected to become operational in five months.

Gulf Crisis Creates 'Fiscal Mess' for Government

BK1011035690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0201 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Report by Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 10 (AFP)—India's new government will have its hands full coping with the shock loss of revenue as well as foreign exchange outlays forced by the Gulf crisis, the country's outgoing finance minister said. The additional economic strains come on top of rising prices, widening budget deficits, already precarious foreign exchange reserves and a slowdown in industrial growth.

Madhu Dandavate, finance minister in the outgoing administration, makes no effort to hide how tough it will be for the new prime minister, Chandra Shekhar, whose choice of finance minister will be keenly watched.

"Whoever were to take over the government, the task of protecting the economy would be extremely difficult," Mr. Dandavate told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"Herculean efforts will be needed to put the economy on the rails. The brunt of the burden created by the Gulf crisis will be borne by the new government," added the minister, who like Mr. Shekhar is a former socialist.

Inflation looks to be the new government's biggest headache as it comes to grips with the economy—which along with caste turmoil and Hindu-Moslem strife is seen as a top national priority.

Eminent Indian economist Malcolm Adiseshiah, in a mid-year review of the economy released here Thursday, predicted an inflation rate of 12 to 13 per cent in fiscal 1990-91 against 8.6 per cent the previous year.

"The price situation is extremely disturbing," he said in the review, one of India's most respected economic analyses. "It is the...poor who bear the major impact of the price rise of the essentials that they need."

The prices of food staples like sugar, pulses, edible oils, tea, onions and potatoes have increased 35 to 100 per cent in the past two years.

A mid-October decision to hike prices of oil products by 25 per cent fuelled the inflationary spiral affecting virtually all sectors using petrochemicals and petroleum—from plastic bucket manufacturers to airlines.

"We were doing quite well in managing the economy until the Gulf crisis hit us," said Mr. Dandavate, whose government had hoped to contain inflation at around seven per cent.

"It has had a great adverse impact on the economy," he said, putting part of the blame for the fiscal mess on domestic instability.

Experts say the budgetary deficit is now likely to surpass 100 billion rupees (5.55 billion dollars) against the official pre-Gulf crisis target of 72 billion (four billion dollars).

The balance of payments deficit, according to Mr. Adiseshiah, would worsen by three billion dollars as a result of the Gulf crisis because of a higher import bill calculated on 25 dollars per barrel of oil and the loss of remittances by hundreds of thousands of Indian expatriates. The shortfall could be worse if oil prices rise further.

The trade deficit widened to 1.75 billion dollars in the first four months of fiscal 1990-91 starting April, compared with 1.4 billion dollars in the same period of the previous year.

Few expect the Commerce Ministry's old 20 billion dollar export target to be achieved with the loss of vital Middle East markets.

Mr. Dandavate said foreign exchange reserves were enough for just five weeks' imports at about 2.11 billion dollars in the first week of October. The Gulf crisis entailed an additional outflow of about 277 million dollars a month, he said.

Cuts in capital goods imports and petroleum consumption forced by short foreign exchange resources would automatically lead to an industrial slowdown after 13 per cent growth in production in the April-July period. Import-dependent industries such as automobiles, electronics and computers are expected to be the worst hit.

The central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, has upvalued its gold stocks in line with international prices from 166 million dollars to four billion dollars in a cosmetic move aimed at painting a better picture of foreign exchange reserves.

The move was made after Moody's investor service, the New York- based international credit rating agency, in October lowered India's rating for both long-term and short-term debt.

As a result of the decision, ratings of bonds issued by large Indian borrowers on the international commercial market, such as the oil and natural gas commission and the state bank of India, were all lowered.

Commercial borrowings account for 25 per cent of India's total foreign debt of around 46.6 billion dollars, up from less than 20 billion in 1980.

The outgoing administration says that the Gulf crisis neutralised India's third successive favourable monsoon, which was expected to bring food grain production over 170 million tonnes this year.

Paper on Naion's Exchange Crisis, Debt Burden

BK1311142390 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 2 Nov 90 p 11

[Article By K.K. Birla, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha: "Foreign Exchange Crisis"]

[Excerpt] The country is passing through a severe foreign exchange crisis the like of which was never experienced before. The present foreign exchange reserves are around Rs 4000 [rupees] crore which are good enough for about 39 days' imports only. Only two years back the reserves were enough for 139 days' imports. There has thus been a steep decline in the reserves since then. Close and constant watch has therefore to be kept over the situation. One wrong step and the country could fall in the mire of disastrous consequences.

Apart from the foreign exchange reserves the other factor that counts while considering the foreign exchange position of the country is its external debt. The external debt of India is about Rs 97,795 crore or 22.6 per cent of the GNP [Gross National Product]. Debt service ratio has gone up to 30 percent which is very high. What is of concern is a new phenomenon one perceives in the balance of payments position, and students of the Indian economic scene will feel intrigued over this development.

Till recently India always had an invisible gain of foreign exchange. In the year 1980-81, for example, the deficit on the balance of trade account was Rs 5,838 crore; the balance of payment deficit however was only Rs 1,657 crore. The country thus had an invisible gain of Rs 4,181 crore in foreign exchange owing to its earnings in shipping, tourism etc. Fore the last two years, however, instead of invisible gain the country has been suffering invisible loss! Take the case of the year 1989-90. In that year the balance of trade deficit was Rs 7,731 crore; the balance of payment deficit, however, was higher at Rs 11,000 crore. Thus there was an invisible loss of Rs 3,269 crore. The invisible loss in the current year 1990-91 is expected to rise to Rs 3,500 crore.

This invisible loss the country has started suffering has been caused mainly by the increased debt service burden. It is an irony that the country, which economically is otherwise doing well, should fall a prey to the foreign exchange crunch.

For instance, the economy of the country grew at the rate of 5.5 per cent during the target of 5 per cent. The target of the economic growth for the 8th plan is 5.5 per cent which we should achieve. [passage omitted]

Iran

Mohtashemi Comments on Gulf, Hostages

LD1311180190 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRAN—The Persian Daily ABRAR on Tuesday printed an interview with former interior minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi on various topics of the day, including the situation in the Persian Gulf, and the future of the Islamic revolution.

The daily quotes Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi who currently serves as a member of parliament, as saying: "Whether the system as we have here follows the Islamic revolution or not is debatable: Some maintain that the strategy now adopted by the system and by the administration is adequate for exporting the revolution, whereas others believe that it would serve only to preoccupy us with our very own affairs, that it will make us forget the basic principles of the revolution, and oblivious of other nations and of what will befall the world."

He said the two positions exist in distinction, and maintained, "But the proposition that we should first address ourselves to the economic issues, and gradually start exporting the revolution later on is mere fallacy. That is simply a pretext for certain people on the basis of which to take out the core of the revolution..."

Mohtashemi made it clear that the policy to be adopted in relation to the United States would have its basis in the policies of Imam Khomeyni and of the revolution. "We have heard the revered leader of the Islamic republic (Ayatolah 'Ali Khamene'i) say the same things as the (deceased) imam had said, and his views are based on the same ground as were based those of the imam: to stand against and fight the aggressor forces of world arrogance which are led by the United States," he added.

On the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the growing Western military build-up in the Persian Gulf region, he warned, "Obviously the struggle will pose as a holy Islamic jihad, but if we should put off a reaction in that respect then we will suffer blows that may never be repaired at any future time.

"Since for well over three months now we have not moved to show the reaction as we must have shown then we are already more than three months too late for a reaction. It would be wrong of us to adopt policies on the basis of which to agree to a firm establishment in the region of the United States in the wake of the crushing of Iraq. That would be a dual policy against the very nature of our revolution."

"At the height of the invasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran by Iraq Imam Khomeyni pointed to the United States as the arch-enemy of Iran. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, too, is simply another episode in the total world drama designed by the ruling world arrogance, and therefore the only solution would be for us to mobilize the entirety of our power and forces and keep them as a combat-ready forced.

"Should a war break out in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot possibly afford to simply sit back and watch as a bystander.

"Should we decide to withdraw from the scene, we will obviously have bid for threats against our system, against our revolution, and against our frontiers for that matter. We should discontinue the practice—as we have thus far followed—of sitting back in a carefree-come-what-may manner and instead offer our youths intensive military training—well-trained as they may already be. Our youths are now concerned about the future of their country—to say nothing of the revolution.

"At any rate we should deploy ourselves and our Hezbollah force and our combatants and maintain ourselves at an ideally combat-ready status relying on high-level organization and training, not for a regular war but for long-term irregular operations and war with the enemy in and outside of the region. That is the only policy which has any chances of success—in addition, of course, to our strong-willed encounter with the world arrogance in the scene of diplomacy...

"It goes without saying that the countries of the region should be the master of their fate, which will be a factual reality only if the making of decisions in those countries is vested with their peoples rather than with the political systems dependent on the West. We see the superpowers as having been back-stage conductors and developers of each and every regional treaty: The CENTO, the Warsaw Pact, the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Cooperation Council just to name a few.

"Every proposition for creating a new regional treaty may be founded on a superficially highly attractive basis, whereas deeper in it is a horrifying thing which serves only to offer the enemy a larger leg-room in the region, albeit in an unnoticeable manner, and with the very hands of the countries of the region...

"The talk of a regional security treaty is at once a highly alluring but empty slogan with the idea of restricting the right of the masses for self-determination. With that in view I would alert the people against giving publicity to such attention-getting proposition.

"As I said you will not find any government or country or system in any part of the world which is similar with the Islamic Republic of Iran, or a system justifiable on the basis of its revolution with which we may enter into a justifiable treaty..."

(On the question of British hostages in Lebanon and the larger Beirut Plan): "I cannot but express my sorrow over it. We see the British hostages are going to be freed in just a few days because Muslim groups in Lebanon are being hard pressed, while our Iranian Muslim brothers continue to be detained by the Phalanges.

"I should hasten to say that we have five (Iranian) hostages in Lebanon, despite the figure four announced by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The fifth person is a member of the Ulama named Mr Tavassoli. I do not know why his name has been missing in the list.

"In relation with the larger Beirut plan, I can say it is a supplement to the treacherous al-Ta'if treaty which we had previously opposed. I do not know why for the time being no reaction (in Iran) is being shown against the implementation of the larger Beirut plan.... In the meanwhile I have heard that certain elements among the Hezbollah have indicated some degree of reception towards the plan, and opposes it."

Velayati Meets With PAC Acting President

Says Nation Ready To Assist

LD1311174390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Clarence Makwethu, acting president of the Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC], met 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, this afternoon. He described the current situation and difficulties in South Africa. He said that the only solution is to convene a constituent assembly to draw up a new constitution. He went on to discuss the burdens borne by the members of the PAC who are prisoners in South Africa's jails.

Mr. Velayati then advised the strugglers against apartheid to observe unity and solidarity. He announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to assist the PAC, within the framework of the resources available.

Rafsanjani Condemns Apartheid

LD1311173190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received members of a delegation from the anti-apartheid Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] this afternoon.

In this meeting, Mr. Clarence Makwethu, acting president of the PAC, conveyed the greetings of the oppressed people of South Africa. He said: Our country has been sacrificed to the greed of the imperialists. Although very rich mineral resources and other God-given riches are abundant in our country, our people are suffering from poverty. Therefore, we call for the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the just struggle of the people of South Africa against apartheid.

For his part, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the history of the struggle of the oppressed people of Africa. He stated: We are always pleased to meet with active and militant forces of the cause of justice, who are struggling to achieve their aims and aspirations. We consider that it is essential for us to struggle against oppression wherever it may exist: this duty has been given to us by Islam.

In another part of his speech the president said: From our point of view, apartheid and racial discrimination are among the most abhorrent concepts in history. According to the Koran, there are no differences between human beings because of color or race.

The president added: Our advice to you is to maintain your unity. With unity, you can succeed against the mischief of your enemies. We have experienced this in our country. The victory of the Islamic revolution and our victory after eight years of imposed war are proof of this. In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked the delegation of the anti-apartheid organization to convey his greetings to the people of Africa.

Velayati, Delegation Leave for Baghdad 14 Nov

LD1411084390 Tehran IRNA in English 0607 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left here for Baghdad Wednesday morning to discuss implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, Tehran-Baghdad ties and the Persian Gulf.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz visited Tehran on September 9 on a one-day official visit and after that the two countries reopened their embassies in Baghdad and Tehran last month.

Editorial Views Saudi Ties, Hajj, Gulf Situation

NC1011125290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Persian Gulf Security Depends on Good-neighborly Relations"]

[Text] The two-day visit of Saudi Arabia Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri and his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati are seen as very important.

Since the severance of diplomatic relations between Tehran and Riyadh on April 28, 1988, this is one of the few meetings between officials of the two countries. Of course during the last three months conditions in the region have changed drastically. Iraq, which until recently was the closest ally of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council has virtually become an adversary of this council. It would seem that the Saudis and certain other countries of the region now seriously desire closer ties with Tehran.

The trip of Bahrain's foreign minister to Tehran in a day or two gives further support to this view, considering that Bahrain is considered Saudi Arabia's closest ally in the region. Although Riyadh's support for Iraq in the past is no more an issue for Iran today however a new program in relations between Iran and the Saudis is the vast presence of US military forces in Saudi Arabia. Any development of American forces in Islam's most sacred places is wholeheartedly condemned by Tehran.

Another problem in Iran-Saudi relations is the ongoing issue of the annual Hajj pilgrimage. Even though informed sources suggest that the Saudis have modified their stance on this issue to some extent, the problem cannot be considered as fully solved.

It is said that the Saudis have agreed to the holding of rallies of antipathy towards unbelievers by pilgrims during the Hajj, but the issue of the number of Iranian Hajj pilgrims has not yet been resolved.

The Saudis seem to have offered that instead of 45,000 pilgrims as previously proposed Iran may send 75,000 Hajjis. But Iran has insisted on the reinstatement of 150,000 pilgrims.

Considering the fact that Iranian Muslims have been deprived of performing the sacred Hajj pilgrimage for the last three years, Tehran expects the Saudis to show more flexibility in determination of the number of Iranian pilgrims to the Hajj.

Full normalization of Irano-Soviet relations will of course require a long time. However it should be noted that for achievement of a "regional security plan," in which the security of the region would be the responsibility of the regional states requires good relations at least between the important countries in the Persian Gulf.

Editorial Advocates Saudi Arabian Reconciliation

NC1011134690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 30 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Time for Healing Wounds"]

[Text] In the period after the termination of the Persian Gulf war as a result of Iran's acceptance of the U.N. council-mediated ceasefire, Arab states and, particularly those in the Persian Gulf, used their hostility toward Iran as a means [of] strengthening their cohesion and consolidating their then existing unity and solidarity.

Of all the countries in the region, Saudi Arabia must have been the one that showed the most hostility toward Iran during that period and used all if its political as well as economic influence to isolate and break Iran. But isolating and breaking was not the extent of Saudi Arabia's resentment toward Iran, it tried to humiliate Iran.

The severe and artificial drop in the prices of oil during the war as a result of overproduction and the flooding of the market was something of Saudis' making and a conscious effort to bring Iran down to its knees.

The irrational hate-mongering of Saudis toward Iran reached its climax in the July 31, 1987 massacre of hundreds of Muslim pilgrims who tried to stage a peaceful rally in Mecca to call attention to the problems facing the Muslim world. But it did not end there. The Saudis stopped Iranian Muslims from even performing their religious duties by imposing all kinds of artificial restrictiosn and barred them from entering the holy places in contravention of Allah's given right. All with the intention of making Iranian Muslims remorseful of what they had advocated in relation to the holy sanctuaries—i.e., their status as a religio-political forum.

On many occasions Saudi leaders taking part in the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council meets even refused to hear the offer of mediation between the two countries, claiming that the relations had to follow their own course. In general, what the Saudis pursued in their foreign policy toward Iran was an organized endeavor to relegate Iran to a second place, disputing the argument that it was the Persian Gulf's biggest and the most strategic country. In fact, much of the Saudis' policy toward Iran was materialization of what Baghdad and Washington demanded of it rather than an independent and balanced policy of its own.

When the rulers of Kuwait tried to pave the way for the intervention of the U.S. naval forces in the waterway under the guise of protecting freedom of navigation and defending Kuwaiti oil tankers from potential attacks, the Saudis were the main moral support behind their (Kuwaitis') decision. They have done the same thing themselves now, with the difference that this time it was the land of the holy sanctuaries itself that was opened up for occupation.

Therefore, in both cases, Saudis were the main culprit in bringing about the circumstances for converting the region into an arena for foreign forces' flaunting, something which all Muslims have expressed their condemnation of.

The Saudis are right now deeply preoccupied with the idea of liberating Kuwait and they have realized that any efforts toward that end and any idea toward establishing a working regional security arrangement needs Iran in order to succeed.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are two strategic countries of the Persian Gulf. One of its geo-political location and the other for a vital commodity it possesses abundantly (oil). [sentence as published] Therefore they are the two poles of any political or economic arrangement to be set up for the region. This fact along with other cultural and historical similarities require that they establish mutually beneficial ties based on respect for each other's independence.

Iran can take advantage of the new situation—that has proved its rightfulness about what it always said about Iraq—and establish a friendly and honorable tie with Saudi Arabia. There is now an opportunity for Iran to negotiate from a position of strength that meets its own needs.

As far as the biggest impediment to the resumption of its between the two countries—namely the Islamic interpretation of hajj is concerned—Saudis must be ready to listen and be flexible. [sentence as published] The new world Islamic movement can no longer view hajj as simply a ritualistic ceremony devoid of any political meaning. The forum was made from its very inception to

bring Muslims together, make them aware of their collective power, increase their unity and solidarity and call attention to their common problems. In short, hajj is a religio-political process, but with nowhere calling for interference in the internal affairs of Saudi Arabia.

Editorial Says Saddam Seeks Peace With Kurds

NC1011130690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 29 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Kurds, Saddam: Time for Peace"]

[Text] According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS News Agency, on Friday Oct. 26, a Baghdad based newspaper reported that President Saddam Husayn is seeking to make peace with Iraq's Kurdish minority.

Following Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 Algiers accord on Aug. 14, 1990 President Husayn has shown signs of good will for permanent peace between Tehran and Baghdad. The withdrawal of Iraqi forces to internationally recognized borders, exchange of prisoners of war, visit by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to Tehran and finally the resumption of diplomatic ties between the two Muslim states are examples of positi· ·litical gestures.

The recent news coming from Baghdad could be another signal of good will for more than 95,000 Kurds now living in refugee camps in Iran and tens of thousands more residing in Turkey.

During the Iran-Iraq war, the Kurds suffered immensely. Just during the chemical bombing of the town of Halabjah and its nearby villages on March 1988 [as received], more than 5,000 of them were ruthlessly killed and thousands more were injured. The massacre marked another dark page in the history of Ba'athist rulership in Iraq. Although bitter past experiences act as an obstacle between the Kurds and Saddam Husayn, one should not forget that the recent development in the Persian Gulf has caused Baghdad to review its past policies towards Iran and now with respect to its domestic foes.

While the Iraqi Kurds should take advantage of Saddam's new peace offer and reach an agreement for a long lasting peace in their region, they should remember that verbal promises will not solve their problems. President Saddam Husayn, in the same way he solved Tehran-Baghdad political differences, must act and declare a true amnesty for thousands of Iraqi Kurds now living in Iran and Turkey. He should also compensate for those Kurds who have been subjected to Baghdad's scorched earth, as well as mass deportation policies and let them return to their traditional lands.

With respect to peace negotiations between Iraqi and Kurdish officials, the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a vital role as a mediator between the two sides. Since 1987 when the first influx of the Iraqi refugees crossed Iran's western border, Tehran has been hospitable to Iraqi refugees of Kurdish origin additionally, Iran's improving relations with Iraq could be a major factor for Tehran to play host for example, as a meeting ground between Iraqi and Kurdish officials. [sentence as received]

TV Commentary Discusses Changes in Lebanon

LD1311190390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1645 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The efforts of the Lebanese Government to bring the city of Beirut under its control have entered a practical stage. [passage omitted]

If the plan for greater Beirut is successfully implemented, most of the paramilitary forces leaving the capital will move toward southern Lebanon, and their activities will be limited to that area. The concentration of thousands of armed persons, especially Islamic groups, fighting along the confrontation line against the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon has already given rise to intense anxiety among Israeli officials; because when the paramilitary forces are released from factional and marginal struggles in Beirut, and when they achieve unity and coordination in their struggle against Israel—as they probably will—they will be able to form a united front against Israel.

What adds to the anxiety of the Zionist regime is the recent agreement between the Amal and Hezbollah movements. As a result of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Government, these groups have agreed to end their disputes of the last few years, and this week they are starting a new stage in cooperation and non-hostility toward one another. Consequently, as a result of the strong presence of these two major Islamic forces in southern Lebanon, the confrontation front against the regime occupying Jerusalem will be stronger than ever before.

Therefore, being aware of the dimensions of the formation of such a front in southern Lebanon, Israel has openly shown its dissatisfaction in advance by expressing its opposition to the dispatch of units of the Lebanese Army to the southern occupied zone. Noting that the so-called security belt is a strategic region, Israel has warned against any anti-Zionist operations after the paramilitary forces leave Beirut.

In any case, despite past experiences in Lebanon, where the failure of solutions to the crisis has usually outweighed the successes, Lebanon's political circles—while respecting the views of those analysts who regard the bitter experiences of the past as a model for their assessment of the present situation in Lebanon—are nevertheless looking at present Lebanese problems with some optimism. Stressing that the period of war in Lebanon has come to an end due to the new regional developments, these circles believe that any obstacles created in the path of the solution of the crisis can only postpone the solution, but will never deliver a major setback to the prospect of ending the war.

Regardless of the success or failure of the plan for a greater Beirut, the positive points of the plan are that the presence of the armed groups in the capital, who during the past few years have brought about nothing but loss for the inhabitants of that city, will be ended and those forces will also be released from marginal battles. In that case, an increase in the anti-Zionist operations in southern Lebanon and a strengthening of the confrontation front against the regime occupying Palestine will be certain.

Mujahidin Leader Reiterates Islamic Rule

LD1011203390 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Mashhad, Nov. 10, IRNA—A top Afghan mujahidin leader said Saturday an Islamic republic similar to the one in Iran was to assume power in Afghanistan after the ruling Kabul regime was toppled and general elections were held in that country.

"An electoral committee comprising the representatives of the Iran and Pakistan-based mujahidin groups is to convene in Peshawar next week to prepare the ground for elections in Afghanistan," Sebghatullah Mojadeddi told IRNA in an interview here.

Mojadeddi, the president of an interim government set up by the Pakistan-based Pashto speaking Afghan guerrilla groups, added the duty of the electoral committee was to pave the way for election of qualified deputies and setting up of an official government.

Elections are to be held simultaneously in constituencies inside Afghanistan and in Afghan refugee camps in Iraq and Pakistan, Mojaddedi said.

He also accused the Kabul regime of firing rockets at public sites in Afghan cities in a bid to tarnish the image of the mujahidin and sow discord among them and the Afghan people.

Yugoslavia's Loncar Arrives on Official Visit

Met by Velayati

LD1311073190 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar arrived here Monday night on a 2-day official visit and was greeted at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Loncar is to hold talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Velayati and minister of economics and financial affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh who is also co-chairman of the Iran-Yugoslavia Joint Economic Commission.

In an interview upon arrival, Loncar told IRNA that he was interested in becoming familiar with the viewpoints of the Iranian president and other officials on different issues including the Persian Gulf crisis and the Non-Aligned Movement.

On bilateral relations, he said there were ample potentials for promotion of Tehran-Belgrade economic, technical and scientific cooperation. On the second and third leg of his tour, Loncar is to visit Syria and Jordan. Presently Yugoslavia is the chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Discusses Gulf With President

LD1311125290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic, this morning received SFRY Foreign Minister Loncar. At that meeting, at which Foreign Minister Velayati was also present, Mr. Loncar said that Yugoslavia regards Iran's Islamic revolution as a major event. He indicated his country's preparedness for expanded cooperation in all fields. Appreciating the clear and explicit stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the Nonaligned Movement, he added that with due regard to the fact that Yugoslavia currently holds the chair at the Nonaligned Movement, his country is making efforts to organize cooperation among the member states toward a move which would lead to peace in the Persian Gulf crisis. He called for constructive and forward-looking views of the Islamic Republic toward that end.

The Yugoslav foreign minister agreed that the Nonaligned Movement has failed to have a decisive and principled stance toward the Iraqi war against Iran. He believes that it is necessary for the Nonaligned Movement to engage in serious efforts concerning the Persian Gulf crisis. He added that Yugoslavia is determined to move along a direction through which the Nonaligned Movement would be able to shoulder its historic responsibility with regard to that world crisis.

Our country's president then said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to have more expanded cooperation with Yugoslavia during the peace period. He added that as far as possibilities allow the field for cooperation between the two countries is open.

Referring to the Persian Gulf crisis, the president said: The Nonaligned Movement is expected to be a great deal more active in this crisis; it would have been much better had the movement resolved the differences between its two member states prior to the United States dispatching its troops.

Remarking that in such crises one could not act conservatively, and that one cannot satisfy both sides, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: It is obvious that Iraq has committed aggression. If all the Nonaligned countries had solidly and decisively condemned the aggressor, the field would not have been so open to the Americans as it is now. During the imposed war, the Nonaligned Movement also did not take any serious measure to prevent that aggression.

Stressing that, even today, adopting a clear and decisive position could have a positive impact, the president said:

Under the present conditions there is no solution but for Iraq to abandon aggression. The outbreak of war in the region would be in nobody's interest; the status quo is neither acceptable nor durable.

At the end of the meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for surveys to be carried out by the Nonaligned Movement on new conditions for the world and said: With regard to the crisis in the Persian Gulf, the movement must pay attention to its new responsibilities in the world; it must think about the new objectives to which the member-states may aspire.

Views Ties With Velayati

LD1311164790 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 13, IRNA—Visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed mutual ties, major international issues and the Persian Gulf crisis in their meeting here Tuesday.

The impacts of Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait especially the growing foreign military build-up in the Persian Gulf and possibility of outbreak of military clashes were among other topics brought up at the meeting.

Loncar voicing concern about what he called the "likelihood of a war" in the region, said Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait.

Velayati also insisted on Iraq's complete pull-out from Kuwait, and said the wiping out of a country from the political map by another one was in no way acceptable.

He called on the Nonaligned Movement to make utmost efforts to prevent the outbreak of military clashes and to ensure the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

In a separate meeting here today, the Yugoslav foreign minister conferred with Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh on [words indistinct] in gas and oil fields and export of Iranian natural gas to Yugoslavia via the Soviet Union. Loncar announced his country's readiness to import non-oil commodities from Iran.

Yemeni Deputy Minister Arrives on Visit 12 Nov

Discusses Ties, Region

LD1211170490 Tehran IRNA in English 1556 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 12, IRNA—First Deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Yemen Shafi Muhsin arrived in Tehran for a three-day visit Monday to prepare grounds for the first Iran-Yemen joint commission meet and to exchange views on the Persian Gulf situation.

He told IRNA at Mehrabad Airport that he is here to explore the ways and means for developing the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yemen. Yemeni Foreign minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani is due to Tehran next wek for the joint commission meet.

In relation with the Persian Gulf situation, Sha'e' said both Iran and Yemen advocate a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region. He said from the outset Sanaa had insisted on the need to explore peaceful means for the problem and added that his government continues its efforts for the same purpose. Sha'e' declined to comment on his forecast of the future of the four-nation Arab Cooperation Council—grouping Yemen with Iraq, Egypt and Jordan—in the light of the alignment of Egypt against Iraq.

"At the moment, the future of this group cannot be forecast," said the Yemeni official. Questioned on relations with Saudi Arabia, he said "Yemen has very old border disputes with Saudi Arabia which could be solved by negotiation and through political efforts." Since the Iraqi occupation of kuwait on August 2, Riyadh has expelled 700,000 Yemni workers, in obvious retaliation for Sanaa's friendly ties with Baghdad. In addition Saudi Arabia has four Yemeni oilfields under its control.

Meets With Velayati

LD1311194790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Shafi Muhsin, deputy foreign minister of Yemen, who is visiting Tehran at the head of a delegation to prepare the groundwork for the formation of a joint commission between the two countries, has met with Foreign Minister Velayati. He called for the expansion of bilateral relations in all fields and described the formation of the joint commission as an important step toward the expansion of ties.

He discussed the policies of Yemen on the crisis in the region, expounding in particular on the expulsion of Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia.

For his part, Mr. Velayati pointed to the historical links between the two Muslim peoples and the appropriate grounds for the expansion of ties. He expressed his satisfaction at the current efforts to achieve the expansion of relations.

Concerning the crisis in the region, Mr. Velayati reviewed the firm policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed his disappointment at the treatment of Muslim Yemeni workers.

Joint Qatari Plans Cover Pars Gas Exploitation

LD1211173890 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Nov. 12 IRNA—Plans have been drafted for joint exploitation with Qatar of the off-shore Pars gas field at an estimated cost of dlrs three billion, Deputy Oil Minister for Parliamentary Affairs M. Na'imi disclosed here Monday. Na'imi said making the

Pars gas field, one of the biggest in the world, operational by the end of 1994 topped the Oil Ministry's plans. The Pars gas field lies halfway between the Iranian coast and the small Qatar peninsula in the Persian Gulf.

Iran, which next to the Soviet Union has the second largest proven natural gas reserves in the world, is currently exporting between two and three billion cubic meters of gas since the Kangan gas refinery started operation in March 1990, he said. Na'imi said in order to increase its gas exports and pave the way for export of gas to Western and Eastern Europe, Iran intends to lay an additional gas pipeline through Turkey.

On plans to expand city gas network, the deputy oil minister said "so far 110 towns with 900,000 subscribers have joined the nation-wide network, and with allocation of dlrs two billion in foreign exchange another 120 towns will be provided with city gas facilities within the next five years." He said the volume of oil products distributed throughout the country has risen from 70-80 million liters in 1979 to 140 million liters in 1990.

On petrochemical projects, he said construction work on six petrochemical complexes in Arak, Tabriz, Imam Khomeyni Port, Mashhad, Orumiyeh and Esfahan has started with a total investment of dlrs two billion in hard currency. Once operational, added Na'imi, the complexes will not only cut Iran's imports of petrochemical products such as plastic paints and fibres but will also enable it to export petrochemicals. At present, Iran imports dlrs two billion worth of petrochemicals every year.

Mines, Metals Minister Reports on USSR Visit

LD1011120090 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 10, IRNA—Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi who headed a high-ranking economic and technical delegation to the Soviet Union and Italy returned home Friday night. Speaking to reporters upon arrival the minister described his visits as "beneficial and fruitful".

More on his visits, he said that according to an agreement reached between Tehran and Moscow, the Soviet Union will help Iran increase production capacity in Esfahan steel mill to 1.9 million tons a year within the next six months.

On his talks in Rome, Mahlujchi said that negotiations were held with Italian authorities to speed up completion of the giant Mubarakeh steel mill project. The project will be completed soon, he predicted. The minister noted that 300 Iranian technicians are currently receiving technical trainings in Italy in connection with the project.

While in Moscow, Mahlujchi and his entourage also held talks with the Soviet premier on bilateral relations as well as the current Persian Gulf crisis. The delegation also toured several Soviet industrial complexes. Mahlujchi arrived in Moscow on October 29 and left the Soviet capital for Rome on November 12.

Agreement With USSR To Boost Steel Output

LD1011065190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] In accordance with agreements reached between Iran and the Soviet Union, during the next six months, the production capacity of Esfahan's steel mill will increase from 1.1 million tonnes to 1.9 million tonnes per year.

Mr. Mahluji, minister of mines and metals, who had gone to the Soviet Union at the head of a technical-economic delegation, made the announcement to our correspondent on his return to Tehran Friday night. He said that in his trip to the Soviet Union, he not only met Soviet Prime Minister Mr. Ryzhkov and several cabinet ministers, but also visited several of that country's mining design institutes and steel mills. He also added: In the visit to the Volskiy pipe manufacturing factory, we learned about the capabilities of the factory's Italian contractor, who is also undertaking a large part of the design of the Mobarrakeh steel complex, and we hope that through the assistance and serious efforts of the Italian side, the Obarrakeh steel complex will go into operation within the next year.

Dissident Clerics Urge Expulsion of Foreigners

LD1211173990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] The association of Hejazi 'ulema [Saudi Arabian dissident clergymen in Iran] issued a statement today protesting against the coming visit of U.S. President George Bush to Saudi Arabia and inviting the Muslims, and particularly the revolutionary youth of the holy land of Hejaz, to cleanse this land from the filth of the presence of U.S. forces and their allies by employing whatever means possible.

According to an IRNA report, the statement says in part that the claim made by the mass media of the Al Sa'ud family to the effect that the U.S. forces are stationed along the Kuwaiti border is a blatant lie. The foreign forces are present in the cities of Yanbu, Jeddah and Hafr al-Batil, a distance of only a few kilometers from the holy shrines.

The statement also claims that the presence of the U.S. forces in the land of Hejaz offends the religious sanctities and will lead to a daily deterioration of public morality. The statement condemns the Al Sa'ud regime for inviting the foreign forces to come to the land of Hejaz.

Larijani Speaks on Need To Count Blessings

NC0911121890 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Javad Larijani: "Lest we forget!"]

[Text] 1. We should not forget that the Hezbollah nation is staunch and steadfast in its desire for making Iran Islamic, that it is a strong bastion in the world of Islam, and that we can only attain this desire through an Islamic government. This is not a minor or insignificant objective, and of course, there is an adequate reservoir of strength in the nation. However, this in itself would not be enough, especially if we choose to forget our blessings!

We should also comprehend what an Islamic government is and be prepared to mobilize all our energy and strength unconditionally on this path!

2. An Islamic government does not manifest itself in the dissemination of the Koran or the call for prayer from the radio and television, or by having Koranic recitation at the beginning of official sessions, or with a scattering of religious verses here and there. It is the basic pillar, the very essence in every government, and the criterion of its legitimacy. This means that an Islamic government is one whose legitimacy has been vetted according to Islamic principles, and from this point of view the legitimacy of all matters, whether regarding the people, the government, or the employees, becomes clear.

3. Perhaps some individuals hold the view that we should attain our objectives through other forms of government, instead of an Islamic one. They think that since an Islamic government is based on the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], it is a form of fascism or dictatorship and that they cannot attain their objectives except through freedom or democracy.

I do not wish to enter into any altercations with such people. I have no doubt that the best form of freedom is one under the legitimate aegis of the Islamic velayat and that only those who have not comprehended the system of the velayat-e faqih (or of totalitarianism or both) can make claims like that. However, I wish to say that the Third World's experiences have proved that emulation of the Western democratic regimes can at best reduce us to the status of Mexico or Brazil!

This country cannot be protected except by Islam, and we should not embark on naive and repetitive games such as "taking opinion polls."

4. A lofty objective requires superior effort and heroism. Are we manly enough for this arena? It appears at times, that some of the people can be useful to the system if they are given posts of ministers and deputies and do not want anything less! I consider this a form of ingratitude on their part. We should not forget that in a legitimate Islamic system which is based on the velayat-e faqih, in a hierarchy which is headed by a just and confident faqih [jurisconsult] who has undertaken to guide the boat, any service at any level is tantamount to worship.

The hallmark of what is important to us is not if it is carried on the color television screen; there is also a day of reckoning and accountability. Lest we forget!

Editorial Views Deputies' Provocative Remarks

NC1011103290 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial: "In Unison With Radio Israel!"]

[Excerpts] Tehran Deputy Mr. Asgharzadeh, like the treasonous Shah, used pejorative terms for the divine Islamic government in his preagenda speech, calling it "a black form of reaction." He ridiculed participation in elections, which is obligatory under the shariah [Islamic law], and accused the radio and television of censorship. By citing incorrect statistics, he presented an analysis, which would have been ideal for foreign radios, on the same lines. Thus, he attempted to project the unified Islamic society as if it were divided into proponents of radicals and nonradicals. He even derided the Hezbollah forces of Tehran as being empty-headed simpletons!

Following his speech, some of his associates also spoke in the same manner. Mr. Najafqoli Habibi put a question mark on all the system's domestic and foreign policies by saying: "Can we change the Islamic revolution with laws and still call it an Islamic revolution?" He accused most government departments of dispensing with members of Hezbollah and added that it appears the United States and the West consider this reshuffling as a green light. [passage omitted]

Another of the deputies who spoke yesterday said: "Undoubtedly the results of the Council of Experts elections can be considered a defeat for the officials." What fair judgement has he passed on the people and the officials! Why is there a need for a Radio Israel, BBC, or VOA to deal blows to the magnificent Islamic revolution!

Why should the sacred Majles forum become the venue for airing the most derogatory accusations against the hallowed Islamic system of the Islamic Republic of Iran rather than for defending the Islamic revolution?

Why should a few persons seek to amass greater power in the country and, wherever they feel this threatened and perceive that they cannot attain their objectives, slaughter the interests of the system for the interests of a handful of persons?

Will our people permit accusations hitherto only disseminated on Radio Israel to be carried from the Islamic Majles' rostrum? [passage omitted]

Thus, at this critical juncture, the esteemed Majles deputies have a very momentous responsibility on their shoulders.

The nation's stance is very clear on some spokesmen of the counterrevolution, but what is our Majles deputies' obligation? Should they not endeavor to safeguard the sanctity of the Majles and its sacred forum ? As his eminence our leader has said: "The Islamic Majles is the pivot of the nation's hopes. It is a trench for the nation—a trench against the enemies, the United States, the counterrevolution."

*Qom-Kashan Highway Funded by Retirement Money

91AS0083S London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] The National Retirement Fund, with capital of about $40 billion, will be used to build the Qom-Kashan freeway. This road will be about 104 kilometers, and it is expected that construction will take five years. Based on reports in the Tehran press, Sa'idi-Kiya, the Islamic Republic's minister of roads and transportation, recently signed a contract with the chief of the National Administration and Employment Affairs Organization for carrying out the construction operations for the Qom-Kashan freeway. When he signed the contract, the Islamic regime's minister of roads and transportation said the aim in building the Qom-Kashan freeway was to procure the necessary facilities to transport goods imported through the nation's south and southeastern borders, as well as to establish links for moving agricultural goods to Central Province. Sa'idi-Kiya told reporters that the investment needed to carry out the project is 40 billion rials, and that this will be provided and paid entirely by the National Retirement Fund. He added: Interest on the use of this freeway will be paid to the National Retirement Fund for 25 years.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Meets World Leaders In Tokyo

BK1211164590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has held talks with several world leaders, including the heads of state of Indonesia, Bangladesh, Turkey, Germany, and Senegal and the Sultan of Brunei in Tokyo [while representing Pakistan at the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Akihito of Japan] on bilateral, regional, and international issues. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Indonesian President Suharto discussed bilateral and economic ties and the forthcoming session of the Indonesia-Pakistan economic cooperation commission. President Suharto explained the situation in Kampuchea and expressed the hope that the remaining impediments in the way for a solution to the issue will be overcome. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan lauded the role of Indonesia in promoting the Association of South East Asian Nations—ASEAN—and apprised him of the latest situation in the region and in Afghanistan and Pakistan's relations with India as well.

The views of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad were identical on the issues they discussed. The Bangladesh president congratulated Ghulam Ishaq Khan for holding free and fair elections in Pakistan. Ershad thanked Pakistan for the facilities extended to the Bangladeshi nationals, who were returning from Kuwait.

During his meeting with Ishaq Khan, the Sultan of Brunei discussed the Gulf crisis, especially on the provision of oil to Pakistan. He thanked Pakistan for the technical assistance provided to his country. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Pakistan's resources will be available for the benefit of Muslim community.

The Pakistani president and the Turkish president, Turghut Ozal, held talks on strengthening bilateral economic cooperation and on the Gulf crisis. The Turkish president stressed the need for making the Economic Cooperation Organization, of which Pakistan, Turkey and Iran are members, more effective. He appreciated President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for holding free and fair elections.

Radio Pakistan's special representative Ishaq Hassan has reported that during his meeting with German President Weizsaecker, President Ishaq Khan apprised him of the difficulties faced by Pakistan as regards balance of payments. He said Pakistan thanks Germany for its assistance. Ghulam Ishaq Khan told him that the new government of Pakistan wants to expedite economic progress and the process of industrialization. He apprised the German president of the latest situation in Afghanistan and said Pakistan wants a peaceful settlement of the issue. Referring to regional situation and relations with India, he said Pakistan wants to establish good relations with India. He congratulated the German president on German reunification and invited him to visit Pakistan. The German president said his country's economic assistance to Pakistan will continue.

The Senegalese president, Abdou Diouf, discussed the Gulf Crisis, its solution, and the upcoming session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Dakar with President Ishaq Khan. The president thanked Senegal for its role in tabling a resolution on Kashmir at the last ICO session. He invited the Senegalese president to visit Pakistan.

Stops Over In Beijing

BK1411113090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan was given a warm welcome when he made a brief stopover in Beijing today on his way back home after an official visit to Tokyo. The Chinese vice foreign minister conveyed greetings of the Chinese leaders to the president and congratulated him for holding successful general elections in the country. The president said the deep fraternal ties between Pakistan and China were an example of cooperation and understanding and should be emulated by other nations. The Chinese vice

foreign minister also briefed the president about the Chinese perceptions on the latest Gulf situation, which were similar to those of Pakistan.

President Returns Home

BK1411135490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpt] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan returned to Islamabad this afternoon after a five-day official visit to Japan. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif; the chairman of the Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad; the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan; some federal ministers and advisers. The president made a brief stopover in Beijing today where he was given a warm welcome. [passage omitted]

Sharif Calls Good Relations With India

BK1211081690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants to promote cooperative and good neighborly relations with India on the basis of equitable sovereignty and mutual benefit. He said this in his message to Chandra Shekhar upon assuming office as prime minister of India. The prime minister has assured that Pakistan will adhere to the policy of solving all the outstanding issues between the two countries under international and bilateral agreements and according to mutual responsibility for promoting peace and stability in the region.

Police Teargas Protestors at Indian Consulate

BK1011154290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1525 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Karachi, Nov 10 (AFP)—Police teargassed demonstrators trying to march on the Indian consulate here Saturday to protest Hindu fundamentalist attacks on northern India's disputed Babri Mosque, witnesses said.

Members of the youth wing of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami—part of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance—organised the demonstration but were stopped by police on their way to the Indian mission, witnesses said.

Carrying banners and placards, the protestors staged a sit-in and chanted slogans condemning attacks on the 16th century mosque and the killing of Indian Moslems. They also burned an Indian flag and an effigy of the new Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, witnesses said.

Fundamentalist Hindus want to raze the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya and build a Hindu temple in its place.

Nawaz Sharif Interviewed by UAE Paper

JN0911110990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0825 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 Nov (WAKH)—Pakistani prime minister-designate Nawaz Sharif has stressed that his country is committed to supporting the Gulf states and adopting the cause of the Kuwaiti people. He asserted that what happened in Kuwait cannot be described as less than "a huge crime."

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD newspaper published in the United Arab Emirates today, Sharif said: I think we should provide all moral, political, and material support for Saudi Arabia, the government of Kuwait, and all Gulf states, because their existence is threatened. What happened cannot be described as less than a huge crime. We think that Iraq has committed a crime, and Pakistan is dutybound to do all in its power to resolve this crisis.

Pakistan, he said, participated in the political pressure and economic blockade against Iraq. "This blockade must be tightened so that Saddam can reconsider his calculations, reverse course, and implement the UN resolutions."

The Pakistani prime minister said that his country "is committed to supporting the Gulf states, and will play its role through the adoption of the Kuwaitis' cause."

Sharif said that Pakistan has "extremely cordial and intimate relations with the Gulf states" and that it will endeavor to bolster these relations in all fields.

He expressed concern for all those affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and said that Pakistan has suffered huge financial losses due to the crisis.

On the industrialization in Pakistan and the country's nuclear policy, he said Pakistan is planning to launch an industrial revolution and will provide all incentives to investors and give them all constitutional and legal guarantees.

Concerning the nuclear policy, he said it must be viewed within a regional context. "It cannot be viewed out of context," he said.

Further on Interview

BK1411122090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 90 p 8

["Excerpts" of a 9 November interview with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by an unidentified correspondent of the UAE newspaper AL-ITTIHAD—place not given]

[Text] On the Gulf Crisis—Pakistan has sent troops to Saudi Arabia and we are committed to this issue. If the situation so demanded, we are ready to play a constructive and effective role.

Pakistan enjoys cordial relations with the United Arab Emirates and the rest of the Gulf countries. There are opportunities for strengthening relations with the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] particularly in the field of

industrial joint ventures. In this regard, I intend to send special envoys to the states of the region to explore ways and means to enhance the relations in all fields.

On ICO—I feel that the Organisation of Islamad Organization Conference (ICO) would definitely achieve the objectives for which it was established. And to bring about this end, Pakistan would play its role to increase the effectiveness of this organization and to enhance its power so that it might be able to serve the interests of the Muslims everywhere. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it would never hesitate to serve the interests of the Muslims whether through ICO or other means.

On Kashmir Issue—Our stance towards the Kashmir issue remains unchanged. We have always exercised pressure on India to give the Kashmiri people the right of self-determination. The sooner India accepts this principle the better for all of us. India itself cannot continue with the present situation. On the other hand, the results of the last elections in India were indicators to what the Kashmiris really want.

These were some sort of referendum in which the Kashmiris rejected Indian domination. On our part, we cannot feel comfortable for what is going on in the occupied Kashmir as Pakistan is sentimentally attached with the cause of Kashmir. If the Kashmir issue is not settled according to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people, this issue would remain to be a source of tension between India and Pakistan.

On The Afghan Jihad—We have always called for giving the Afghan people their right of electing their leadership. They should be enabled to exercise their right of electing their government and our position remains unchanged. Pakistan would do everthing it can to achieve this objective.

On The Economic Situation—Pakistan has been adversely affected by the gulf crisis as a result of the decline in the remittances of the Pakistanis in Kuwait and Iraq and the high prices of oil. Therefore the situation is very grim and warrants mobilisation of our potentials and energies.

We are planning massive industrialisation. But this step needs time. Meanwhile we are planning to reduce our non-development expenditure in order to save more money for development. We do not intend to live on foreign aid. Rather we will strive hard to develop our indigenous resources and put an end to the policy of economic dependence on others.

On Islamic Sharia—We firmly believe in the principles of Islam and endeavour to apply them. In this regard all un-Islamic laws should be brought in conformity with Islamic Shariah. We believe in fairplay in politics other than policy of violence and revenge. Similarly we reject the so-called "fundamentalism" and will strive hard for social justice and equality. These are the real facts of Islamic teachings by which we intend to abide. It is needless to say that we will not impose Islam but we endeavour to set a practical example before the masses so that they would follow the Islamic teachings.

On The Future of IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ihehad]—This alliance has survived for over two years during which we faced no problem whatsoever. I think that the present government would be stable and the strongest in the history of Pakistan as we enjoy 153 seats as against 39 won by the opposition in the National Assembly.

On Special Tribunals—My government is not intending to continue with the special tribunals as we do not believe in the politics of revenge. I think the special tribunals should wind up their functions. But I cannot comment on what these special tribunals have done as I do not want interfere in the functions of judiciary.

On Pakistan's Nuclear Programme—Pakistan's nuclear programme should be seen within regional context and not as an isolated issue. Nor should all the blame be put on Pakistan for India is a neighbouring country and poses a nuclear threat. I personally believe it is injustice to ask Pakistan to accept international inspection on its nuclear facilities while India is excluded from the same. Pakistan is ready to sign Non-Proliferation Treaty. If India agrees to follow. But the superpowers should not push Pakistan to a situation whereby it feels compelled to think over the nuclear option.

Violation of Airspace by Afghans Protested

BK1311102890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's protest alleging that four helicopters of Pakistan Air Force had violated Afghan airspace during September-October period. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign office yesterday and told that the allegations were enquired into and found baseless.

A strong protest was lodged with the Afghan charge d'affaires over the violation of Pakistan airspace by Afghan aircraft in Chaman, Khurram Agency and Khyber Agency and North Waziristan Agency four times in October and twice in the beginning of this month.

Sharif Assures India on Kashmir Dispute

BK1411120790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has assured India that Pakistan wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute on the basis of equality and honor. Replying to an address of welcome by the Azad Jammu and Kashmir president at a luncheon in Islamabad today, he said a solution to the dispute is as much the responsibility of India as of Pakistan. The prime minister recalled that the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir had been accepted by the founding fathers of India at the United Nations. In its fulfillment lies the good of all.

Ishaq Khan's Addresses Parliament 8 Nov

BK0911123690 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Nov 90 pp 1, 8

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 8—Declaring freedom, sovereignty, peace, cooperation and peaceful coexistence to be the basic principles of the new Government's foreign policy, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan stated today that Pakistan will strive to promote peace, friendship and cooperation with all countries in general and neighbours in particular in the light of our interests of national integrity and progress.

In his address to the joint session of Parliament, the President outlined in some detail the foreign policy objectives of the Government of Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif.

"I deem it necessary to hold out the assurance on behalf of the new Government that all the international and bilateral agreements will be fully adhered to by Pakistan and all the obligations thereunder will be fulfilled in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions".

The President further declared, "It is the point of view of the Government that foreign assistance, how much ever essential it may be for us, would not make it depart the principles of our sovereignty and freedom of action." We will welcome any cooperation extended by our friends while respecting our honour and dignity.

In the context of recent complications in relations with the United States, the President remarked, "The commonality of interests and values, uniformity of perceptions on regional security and beneficial cooperation have been the bases of our friendship with that country. Pakistan still hold and would continue to hold its relations with U.S. to be important, on the condition, however, that it did not impinge on our sovereignty, nor should "we be expected to barter away our basic national principles".

He continued: "The United States too, we hope, would not make a wrong assessment of the true value of its friendship with Pakistan and different lobbies representing peculiar interests and baseless assumptions would not be allowed to misguide American perceptions about Pakistan".

Referring specifically to relations with India, he said it would be the Government's endeavour to promote meaningful cooperation with India on the basis of mutual respect, equality, dignified friendship and durable peace but without compromising principles.

Besides the acute economic pressures resulting from the situation in Persian Gulf, "an uncertain situation prevails on our borders too". He deplored that efforts were being made to brutally crush the freedom movement in occupied Kashmir. "We do not want war under any circumstances. But Kashmir is our lifeline and it is our national duty to provide moral and political support to the Kashmir freedom fighters".

The new Government would not be distracted from this objective and, instead, would continue to activate the world conscience while striving for resolution of the Kashmir problem on the basis of agreed principles of partition of the Subcontinent and the U.N. resolutions, he said. The Government would also raise its voice for upholding the sanctity of Babri Masjid and rights of the Indian Muslims, the President said.

On the Afghan problem, he said, Pakistan believed that the historic sacrifices of the Afghan people would not go waste. The Afghan people should get the democratic right of establishing an elected Government of their choice, he stressed.

Pakistan, he added, would also try to make the Russian leadership realise that to deprive Afghan people of the new dawn which their realistic and bold policies facilitated for the Eastern European countries was not in accord with the great objective of human rights.

He also declared Pakistan's continued support for the freedom of Palestine and restitution of holy places of al-Quds Sharif [Jerusalem] as well as movements of African people for freedom and against racialism.

With a view to consolidating the concrete foundations of cooperation and collaboration among Islamic countries, the President said, the new Government will devote its energies to further promoting brotherly ties with Muslim countries in general and Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey and Gulf countries in particular.

The Government would also endeavour for resolution of the Gulf crisis in conformity with the United Nations and ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] resolutions.

About relations with Soviet Union, the President said, "Russia is another great neighbour of ours. Our bilateral relations are untrammelled by any tension". The new Government acknowledged Moscow's role in putting Pakistan on the path of industrial development and hoped that cooperation between the two countries would be further expanded and deepened.

The President also mentioned specifically the cooperative relationship with Europe and Japan and expressed his optimism that Pakistan's relations with them would gain new warmth.

"Development of friendship with countries of the Third World and their struggle for a better international economic order will be among priorities of the Government", the President declared. He added, Pakistan will continue to fulfill all its responsibilities with dedication and sincerity as a member of all the international organisations such as United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Countries, Commonwealth and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation].

Nawaz Sharif Attends National Security Briefing

BK1011145690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, attended a briefing pertaining to the country's security environment with special reference to Kashmir, Afghanistan, and the crisis of the Gulf at the Joint Staff headquarters in Rawalpindi today. The briefing, which lasted two and half hours, was attended among others by Federal Ministers Chaudhry Shujat Hussain, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and the adviser on defense, Syed Ijlal Haider Zaidi.

The chairman of the joint chief of staff committee, General Ifikhar Ahmad Sirohey; the chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg; the Naval chief, Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik; and the chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal Hakimullah called on the prime minister in Rawalpindi today. It was their first meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif after he took over office.

'More Realistic' Approach in U.S. Ties Urged

BK1311120190 Lahore THE NATION in English 13 Nov 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan-U.S. Differences"]

[Text] Ostensibly the differences between the US and Pakistan are on Pakistan's nuclear policy, even though Pakistan has achieved no major breakthrough in nuclear research in the last two months to justify aid stoppage. The fact is that the US, having little use for Pakistan now as a regional ally in superpower confrontation—the confrontation having disappeared—would like to get a price for the aid that it chooses to offer. It is commonly called 'aid with strings' but in fact it is intended to be a lever to mould Pakistan's policies. Just as the World Bank and IMF lay down conditions for loans to mould Pakistan's economic policies, the US wants to lay down conditions to mould Pakistan's political policies—particularly those relating to regional affairs. Among these conditions are Pakistan's relations with India, of which signing of the 'Non-Proliferation Treaty' is only one dimension. There is some appreciation in the US administration now of Pakistan's position that Pakistan's signing of the NPT unilaterally could endanger its security, but not enough to take pressure off it. The other dimension is of disarmament. Here again the US administration is mindful of India's huge military build-up and would like that to be pared down to a reasonable size, but it has no aid-lever against India.

No one questions the basic assumptions behind policies of disarmament or arms reduction. These imply diversion of scarce economic resources from the non-productive and often wasteful expenditure on armament, to development. But that can only happen if all countries agree to abide by international law and the bigger countries feel inclined to let smaller countries live in honour and peace. In South Asia that has not happened. India has defied the UN on Kashmir and has sent more than once, its armies marching into the territories of smaller neighbours. Despite that Pakistan is on record having repeatedly proposed mutual reduction of armies right from Ayub Khan's days to General Zia's days. These proposals have always been turned down, primarily because India sees itself as a 'great power' and refuses to accept a one-to-one balance in its relations with Pakistan. Given this condition, asking Pakistan to let down its guard, would be both unfair and unrealistic. A more realistic approach would be to stop pampering India as a regional super-power. For India too needs to spend all that money on the welfare of its poor, that it is now spending on its armies.

Editorial Considers New Indian Prime Minister

BK1211123390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "A New Prime Minister for India"]

[Text] Mr Chandra Shekhar has been sworn in as Prime Minister of India in particularly trying times and is almost entirely dependent for his government's survival on the support of the Congress-I which commands the most seats in the Lok Sabha. Rajiv Gandhi opted not to form the government committing, instead, the support of his party to Chandra Shekhar's break away Janata Dal faction. By doing so he has put his party in a position to pull the strings and yet maintain a reasonable distance from the actions of the government. Among other things Rajiv will be able to put tremendous pressure on the new regime to go slow on the Bofors investigation now reaching a critical stage, if not wrap it up altogether. He would also be biding his time to choose the right moment to make a bid for power. He knows he can afford to wait and seems quite content to do so.

But meanwhile what of the real issues and the grave challenges with which India is faced? Surely the Congress-I has not acted in this crisis situation in a manner befitting a poltical party that claims the guardianship of India secularism. The BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] move against its erstwhile coalition partners was motivated by the V.P. Singh government's position on the Bari Masjid issue and its apparent resolve to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission report. Clearly, considerations of political gain or loss notwithstanding, it could not be faulted from a secular perspective.

It is imperative that the Chandra Shekhai government should not give in to the temptation of short term gain and continue to resist the BJP's despicable efforts to fan the flames of intolerance and fanaticism for increasing its vote. To succumb would be the greatest disservice to the larger interests of the Indian policy already confronted with the insurgency in Kashmir, instability in Punjab and an economic crunch that is bound to worsen. Of course for the Muslims in India, the portents are particularly ominous as reports keep coming in of escalating tension and riots targeting Muslims. However, the new government and its allies should weigh carefully the costs of further alienating the biggest minority in the country. It is a time to provide leadership and show moral courage rather than pursue power and office at all costs.

Portfolios of New Federal Ministers Announced

BK1011063790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] The portfolios of the new federal ministers have been announced. The names of the federal ministers and the advisers to the prime minister and their portfolios are:

Communications	Ghulam Murtaza Khan Jatoi
Railways	Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani
Production	Islam Nabi
Housing and Construction	Syed Tariq Mahmud
Narcotics Control	Rana Chander Singh
Youth Affairs	Syed Ali Guhar Shah
Finance and Economic Affairs Division	Sartaz Aziz
Environment and Urban Affairs	Sardar Yaqub Khan Nasir
Foreign Affairs	Sahabzada Yaqub Khan
Industries with additional charge of Interior	Chaudhary Shujat Hussain
Local Government, Rural Development and Special Education with additional charge of Social Welfare	Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi
Education, Law with additional charge of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Syed Faqhr Imam
Commerce	Malik Mohammad Naim Khan
Petroleum	Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan
Planning with additional charge of Development and Science and Technology	Chaudhary Hamid Nasir Chatha
Health	Syed Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi
Food and Agriculture	Retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik
Labor, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Affairs	Mohammad Ejazul Haq
Adviser to Prime Minister	Roedad Khan
Adviser to Prime Minister on Defense	Ijlal Zaidi

Cabinet Meeting Sets Government Priorities

BK1311092390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] The Federal Cabinet at its first meeting chaired by the prime minister in Islamabad today especially reviewed the transport strike. It formed a cabinet subcommittee to pay special attention, keeping in view the difficulties faced by the people. The cabinet was unanimous that no pressure will be accepted in implementation of the Islamic injunctions as the Qisas [vengeance—a victim or his heirs have the right to inflict the same injury on an offender] and Diyat [blood money—in case of death] Ordinance was enforced on the directive of the Supreme Court. The cabinet also took a number of decisions, fixed priorities and identified areas for immediate attention to solve the problems of the common man.

In his opening remarks, the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, outlined priorities of the new government. He said heavy responsibility lies on it keeping in view the difficult economic situation and expectations of the people who had given a massive mandate to the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance].

Briefing newsmen later, the federal minister for petroleum, Chuadhary Nisar Ali, pointed out that the three priorities set by the prime minister were: accountability, merit, and output, on which there wil be no compromise. He said the prime minister identified eight special areas for immediate action, including self-reliance, taxation reforms, deregulation and denationalization, exchange and payment reforms, agriculture productivity, increase in exports and administrative and law reforms.

The Finance Ministry submitted a summary to the Cabinet about increase in oil prices. He said the government would take any step which might adversely affect the common man. The prime minister directed that efforts should be made to ensure that increase in oil prices should be minimum and a revised proposal be submitted as per his directive. He said efforts should be made to give relief to the people following this decision.

Chaudhary Nisar Ali stated that the Cabinet set up a subcommittee headed by Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi to suggest improvement in the Zakat [Islamic tax] and Usher [tithe] Ordinance to ensure equitable distribution of Zakat.

The prime minister has also decided that all recruitments in higher grades will be made by the Federal Public Service Commission [FPSC] and no recommendation would be accepted. For all other posts not under the jurisdiction of the FPSC, a complete ban has been imposed on recruitment in the federal and provincial government departments and autonomous bodies. The ban would continue till the preparation of a new recruitment policy and its basic pillars would be competence and merit. In the future, extension in service will not be given except in rare cases. The discretionary quota of the prime minister for allotment of plots has been done away with.

Answering a question, Chaudhary Nisar Ali said the prime minister reiterated his resolve to open up the country for massive industrialization.

The petroleum minister said keeping in view the difficulty of consumers, electricity bills would be entertained by all branches of nationalized banks in their respective areas.

Bhutto Looks Toward Future of New Government

BK1211124790 Lahore THE NATION in English 12 Nov 90 p 1, 8

[Text] Lahore—Co-Chairperson of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and the leader of the Opposition in National Assembly, Benazir Bhutto has reiterated that

instead of hammering on rigging in the recent elections she would rather look towards future, allowing the new government to fulfil its promises made during the election campaign.

Talking to newsmen at the Lahore High Court on Sunday, she said the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] leaders had promised to reduce the prices of consumer goods, solve all economic problems, solve Afghan and Kashmir problem and capture Delhi within six months. "Now I shall allow them to fulfil their promises and shall not attempt to destabilise them", she said.

According to her, IJI Government enjoyed the blessing of the President which the PPP Government did not have. She further said the IJI Government had also the cooperation of the provincial governments which she did not have. "All hurdles which were raised in the way of the PPP Government have now been removed," she maintained.

Now when the IJI Government had a free and wide open opportunity it must fulfil its promises. She, however, warned that any attempt to remove the Azad Kashmir Government would be counter-productive—and no one would benefit from this removal but India. "They should also fix the minimum salary at Rs [rupees] 3,000."

Replying to a question, she said the PDA had not accepted the election results as correct. "We neither accepted the results nor did congratulate the new government. We have accepted the present situation on some conditions as I mentioned in my Assembly speech that how come it happened that with a difference of 0.2 per cent in the two alliances the gap of seats was of 50 seats".

Benazir Bhutto also said the IJI leaders themselves have conceded that the this time turn out was less than the 1988 election, then how come the IJI made a leap of 10 per cent and total turn out of voters increased by two per cent over the last elections. She said wherever the PDA candidates won the number of votes were marginally less while the IJI candidates got high number of votes.

She questioned the failure of the opening of ballot bags when the Election Commission was contacted by the PDA candidates for this purposes. She asked what had been hidden in the bags that prevented the authorities from opening them for counting. "Wherever our candidates asked for the results, they were refused," she asserted.

According to her, she had announced in the National Assembly that she would sit in the Assembly despite the rigging in the elections. "We consider politics as a science and if the sitting government would make efforts to solve the people's problems we would extend our cooperation otherwise we would oppose the government for its anti-people policies".

She said if the IJI Government continued with its policies of vengence and vindictiveness then they would nor destroy the PPP, rather they would destroy the political process to which they also belong. If the PPP was destroyed, the IJI would also be destroyed and no political party would survive and some other groups would come into power, she added.

The PPP Co-Chairperson further said the PPP would not try to stretch the issue of rigging to such an extent that people forget the policies of the new government. Despite tremendous pressures, the PPP Government had reduced to one-half the prices of the consumer goods. But now the prices of general provisions were rising unchecked.

Bhutto Wants Own Chief Minister in Province

BK1411103190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[By Niaz Ahmed Shaikh]

[Text] Multan, Nov. 13—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has demanded summoning of Balochistan Assembly forthwith as delay in this regard would have serious repercussions and would create a sense of deprivation among the people of the province.

Talking to newsmen at Multan airport before departure for Karachi today she said a sense of deprivation was developing among Sindhis and Baloch because no representation was given to them. She asked the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] government to take measures which could eliminate this feeling because the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] wanted to see a strong federation.

She described the delay in convening Balochistan Assembly as "dhandli" [fraud] and said there was no justification for delaying it when the governments in other three provinces and the Centre had already been formed. Ms Benazir Bhutto said it was the constitutional right of people's representatives to choose their Chief Minister independently and freely. She said the IJI government's designs and aims had been exposed as it wanted to impose its own Chief Minister through house trading.

She demanded an inquiry into the death of Babu Shah, an MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] -elect of Sindh Assembly, by a judge of the high court. She alleged that Babu Shah was taken to Chief Minister's house with the help of deputy commissioner and he was subjected to torture there. He was allegedly threatened of dire consequences in case of casting vote against Jam Sadiq Ali. She said the government did not allow him to take oath as member of the assembly. She said the incident had created panic among other members of the opposition.

Ms. Bhutto warned the IJI government that any attempt to dislogdge the elected government of Azad Kashmir to appease the Indian government would be harmful to the country's integrity and solidarity and it would be a conspiracy against all Muslims of the world. She claimed that she had received some information that the IJI government wanted to change its policy on Kashmir and

it had sent a message to India that the new government would not encourage the freedom movement in the valley. She said they had not decided about taking part in the by-elections because they did not know awhether it would be an election of "dhandli".

New Probe Ordered on Ziaul-Haq's Plane Crash

BK1411100790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 90 p 8

[Text] Multan, Nov. 13—The Director General of Federal Investigation Agency [FIA] has asked the Deputy Director FIA Multan, Malik Muhammad Ajmal, to re-investigate the incident of crash of C-130 near Bahawalpur which claimed the lives of 32 persons including President Gen [general]. Ziaul Haq, Gen Akhtar Abdul Rehman, Brig. [Brigadier] Siddiq Salik, American Ambassador, and others.

The inquiry team will get statements of Malik Farooq Azam, Mayor of the Corporation, and Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

Transport Workers Ends Strike 13 Nov

BK1311132690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] The country-wide strike by the transporters and transport workers ended today. The transport workers have confirmed their yesterday's decision of calling off their strike finally in the national interest. According to a Punjab Government handout issued in Lahore this evening, the decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting presided over by the federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Syed Fakhr Imam, in Lahore this afternoon. The meeting was attended by the representatives and office bearers of various unions, corporations, federations of transport drivers and workers as well as transport owners from all over the country. The meeting was also attended by the federal secretaries for law, interior and commerce, besides acting acting chief secretary of Punjab, inspector general of Punjab, and secretaries of concerned departments.

Government Announces 40 Percent Oil Price Rise

BK1411151690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The government has increased the prices of petroleum products in view of the sharp increase in oil prices in international markets during the past three months. The new prices are effective from today. [passage omitted]

Today's increase of about 40 percent is less than the 90-percent hike in prices in international markets. The price of high-speed diesel oil has been increased by only 35 percent to minimize the effect of price increases on transport fares. The government has also decided to reduce the existing difference in the prices of kerosene oil and the high-speed diesel from one rupee to 70 paise to check the practice of adulterating kerosene oil with diesel, which has been causing harm to agricultural machinery and vehicles.

Bus and truck fares will increase by about 10 percent as a result of increased operational costs for these vehicles after the price changes, but the government will announce substantial reduction in the import duty for vehicles so as to reduce actual cost of transportation, thereby providing some relief to the people. The conveyance allowance paid to government officials and employees of state sector corporations and private sector companies will be raised appropriately.

Bank Arranges $100-Million Oil Import Loan

BK1411133?90 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] A foreign bank has arranged a $100-million loan with the cooperation of two Arab banking companies for the National Refinery and Pakistan State Oil. The amount will be utilized to finance imports of crude and petroleum products. The credit, which has been extended under the Islamic system of investment—Mudarbah—is the first such loan to Pakistan to finance imports.

Country on Verge of 'Total Economic Crunch'

BK1411113990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Nov 90 pp 1, 6

[By Ashraf Hashmi]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 13—The sudden stoppage of the US economic assistance and the discontinuation of the IMF promised restructuring loan of 250 million dollars, coupled with the worst impact of the present Gulf crisis, have brought Pakistan on verge of a total economic crunch. This situation if not met with immediate and bold remedial measures would lead to irreparable losses to the national economy adversely affecting the entire development of the nation.

While the new elected government was busy in deliberations to find out a workable solution to the resultant problems the authorities concerned find no immediate alternative except to substantially raise the oil prices in the country to at least contain the rising gap, which they said, have already piled up a backlog liability worth millions of rupees.

The corresponding oil price hike since August last in the wake of the Gulf situation, the official quarters maintained, would have saved the national budget from the huge deficit it faces today. The current year's budget for the import of oil has already exhausted and whatever, we are funding today was through the deficit financing, which ultimately surpassed many times the estimated deficit target fixed in the national budget.

The national oil bill, the sources said, would more than double by the end of the year if the Gulf crisis continues.

The country is to pay about 2.4 billion dollars for the import of oil instead of 1.2 billion dollars as originally estimated in the budget.

The national budget, they said, was planned at the rate of 18 dollars per barrel of crude oil which went up to 26 dollars per barrel in August last and has registered a further increase of six dollars.

The country is currently importing crude at the rate of 32 dollars a barrel which is 14 dollars more than the estimated budget price. Thus the exchequer is bearing an additional burden of over a million dollars a day on its daily imports of 75000 barrel of crude oil. Similarly, the import bill of oil products has also doubled. The kerosene oil price has gone up from 32 dollars a barrel in August to 70 dollars now. The price of HSD [High Speed Diesel] which was 24 dollars in August, has now gone up to 48 dollars while the furnace oil which was priced at 14 dollars per ton, is now being imported at the rate of 24 dollars.

Passing on the entire increase in the oil prices to the consumers is a major problem for the elected government as any such big rise in the fuel prices would affect the entire price structure, resulting in an overall price hike. In order to save the common man from heavy burden, the government is planning to devolve the new burden on to different items.

While, having agreed to an increase of about 15 to 20 per cent in the oil price the government has directed its relevant agencies to pinpoint other items, not of common use, to be additionally taxed to meet the balance. A package in this connection is being worked out and is likely to be announced by the end of this week.

When contacted, the newly-appointed young Federal Minister of Petroleum, Ch [Chaudhary] Nisar Ali, said his main concern was to ensure regular oil supplies to the nation. "We have to arrange these supplies keeping in view all the future eventualities". Given the possibilisty of a war in the gulf, he said, our planning should be capable of sustaining such a catastrophe.

Pakistan today was meeting its entire crude requirement from Saudi Arabia, UAE and Iran. For the time-being the country faces no crude supply problem and the supply has been ensured by the three friendly nations. The supply of finished products which were being imported in bulk form Kuwait in the past, was however, causing a problem and for that the country had to move to the spot market or any other alternative.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Congratulates New Indian Premier

BK1111115090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] President Ranasinghe Premadasa sent a message of felicitations to the new Indian prime minister, Chandra Shekhar. In his message, the president points out that India and Sri Lanka have had cordial relationship and mutual friendship for more than 100 years and the friendly ties still exist. The president has expressed the hope that the friendly ties between the two countries will be further strengthened during the term of office of the new prime minister, Chandra Shekhar. President Ranasinghe Premadasa says that the government of Sri Lanka and her people have joined with him to extend best wishes and felicitations on the appointment of Mr. Chandra Shekhar as the new Indian prime minister.

PRC, Others To Supply More Arms to Government

BK1311162090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0624 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Colombo, Nov 13 (AFP)—Sri Lanka is to procure gunboats and other military hardware from China and helicopters and bombers from Western dealers, a newspaper reported here Tuesday [13 November].

THE ISLAND, quoting defence and diplomatic sources, said Sri Lanka was likely to acquire the arms either in December or early next year.

The widely respected English-language daily meanwhile said three Y-12 transport aircraft from China were delivered to the Sri Lankan Air Force on Sunday as part of a "deal between China and Sri Lanka." The latest arrival increased the number of Y-12s in Sri Lanka to nine, it added.

"China, described by diplomats and defence authorities as Sri Lanka's biggest arms supplier in the recent past, has agreed to supply the Sri Lankan Government with sophisticated arms," the newspaper said.

It said that an agreement between the two nations some two months ago for the purchase of gunboats was signed between a "top security forces commander and very senior representatives of the Chinese government" based here.

Under the agreement the Navy is also to receive two light landing craft (LLCS), the newspaper quoted sources as saying, and they did not rule out the possibility of the Chinese shipbuilding industry agreeing to build LLCS in Colombo.

THE ISLAND said Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge had told Beijing during a visit to China in May 1989 that Colombo wanted to purchase more craft from China for the Navy.

The Sri Lankan Government has in the past purchased gunboats from China and other military vessels from South Korea and Israel.

A top Air Force team is currently in China undergoing extensive training in the operation of jets, the newspaper said, adding that Colombo was also likely to acquire Chinese-built A-5 jets.

Since Tamil guerrillas fighting government troops in the island's northeast rebels renewed their secessionist war on June 11, senior government officials have visited several countries including Arab states for the purchase of military hardware.

The deployment of A-5s against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) could turn the balance of firepower tremendously in favour of the security forces, THE ISLAND said.

Another Air Force group is training in a West European country in the operation of Italian-built SF 260 aircraft known as Sia Marchettis, the newspaper said, adding that an agreement between Colombo and a Western supplier provided for the delivery of the SF 260s.

In September, the Air Force lost a Sia Marchetti plane when it crashed into the Jaffna lagoon in the north while engaging the LTTE.

The Sia Marchettis, which are light ground attack aircraft, were used by the Air Force during peacetime to train pilots.

THE ISLAND said the Army was also expected to obtain many weapons including the Chinese T85 infantry combat vehicle.

Defence expenditures, at 295 million dollars, make up the lion's share of the 1991 budget.

Civil Rights Constitutional Amendment Reported

BK1411092390 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0708 GMT 14 Nov 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 14 (LANKAPUVATH)—The seventeenth amendment to the Constitution, expected to be taken up in parliament shortly, has now been gazetted. The changes proposed, which are wide ranging and strengthen fundamental and other rights of the subject, relate to Articles 12, 17, 121 and 122. Articles 12 and 17 which are being replaced, further—(1) guarantee personal right of access to institutions for the administration of justice; (2) reinforce the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest by requiring that a person arrested shall be informed in a language which he appears to understand, of the reasons for his arrest, his right to remain silent, his right to retain an attorney-at-law and that any statement made by him in the presence of such attorney-at-law will be admissible in court,

(3) recognise a person's inherent right to life and his right to liberty and security of person,

(4) recognise a citizen's right to freedom of information,

(5) extend the rights conferred by articles 12 (2) and 14 to persons who are not citizens of Sri Lanka and to whom the Indo-Ceylon agreement signed on October 30,1964 apply so long as they are ordinarily resident in Sri Lanka, and to issue of such persons, so long as such issue are ordinarily resident in Sri Lanka.

(6) limit the grounds on which restrictions may be placed by law, on the exercise and operation of the fundamental rights declared by the chapter on fundamental rights.

(7) enable a body of persons to make an application under Article 126 on behalf of a person whose fundamental right has been infringed and who suffers from any social, physical or economic disability.

Clause 3 amends Article 121 of the Constitution and the legal effect of this article as amended:

(1) to enable a person to challenge a bill within two weeks of the publication of the bill in the gazette and

(2) to require the Supreme Court to make its determination on a bill within one month of the filing of a petition challenging such bill.

Clause 4 amends Article 122 of the Constitution and the legal effect of this article as amended:

(1) to prohibit the use of the urgent bill procedure in respect of bills for the amendment of the Constitution,

(2) to require the Supreme Court to give its determination on the validity of an urgent bill within 72 hours or such longer period not exceeding eight days as the president may specify.

Clause 5 amends Article 126 of the Constitution and the legal effect of this article as amended enables a person whose fundamental right is infringed to make an application for relief to the Supreme Court within four months of the infringement and not within one month as is the case now.